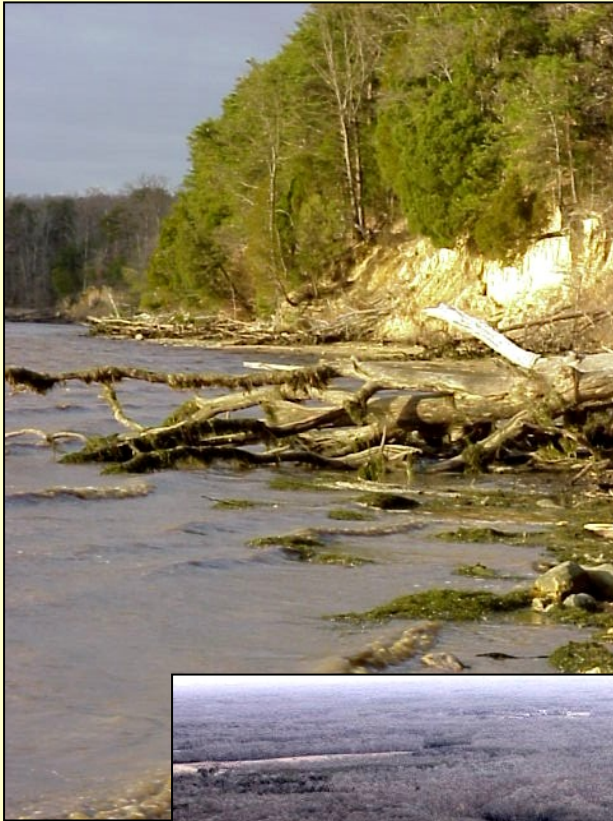


Nanjemoy NRMA

(Natural Resource Management Area)

Land Unit Implementation Plan



A joint publication between
the Maryland Department of Natural Resources
and
the Bureau of Land Management—Eastern States

September 2005

Publication Tracking # DNR-08-0205-0047
Publication Date: September 2005

Publication created by:

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Document also available on the internet at: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/resourceplanning/>

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STATE OF MARYLAND



The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor
The Honorable Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor



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The MDNR and BLM agree to implement the Management Recommendations contained within the Nanjemoy NRMA Land Unit Implementation Plan. Approval of this plan has been granted on this 28th day of September 2005.

SIGNATURES OF APPROVAL

A handwritten signature of C. Ronald Franks in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

C. Ronald Franks, Secretary
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

A handwritten signature of Gary Cooper in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A number of agencies and individuals made significant contributions in the development of the land unit implementation plan for the Nanjemoy Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA). The Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—Eastern States appreciates the efforts of each one of the individuals listed below for their time and effort in reviewing and providing input on this plan.

We would also like to thank all the members of the public who contributed countless hours of time and effort attending public meetings and field days, reviewing and providing comments on the document, and assisting agency staff in collecting field data.

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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

Douglas Point is situated one hour from Washington D.C. along the tidal Lower Potomac River on the Nanjemoy Peninsula of Charles County, Maryland. (See Map 1 - Regional Context). This area is lightly populated and is one of the most ecologically and culturally significant landscapes remaining in the State of Maryland. Migratory waterfowl and wading birds find shelter and abound along ten miles of undisturbed shoreline. An extensive network of wetlands and forests also harbor some of Maryland's finest examples of rare and endangered plants and animals. The area's outstanding natural attributes are equally matched by its archeological resources and history. This historically diverse area includes early Native American sites that offer a rare insight into indigenous cultures prior to European settlement. The area also includes remnants from the Civil War, as well as dozens of WW I era sunken ships, which now lie in Mallows Bay (CMP, 2004).

The parcels addressed in this implementation plan have been purchased by Federal and State agencies and comprise 1.8 miles of the remaining ten miles of undisturbed Lower Potomac River



Photo courtesy of Matt Buchin

The MDNR and BLM publicly-owned properties protect and conserve approximately 1.8 miles of the Potomac River shoreline.

shoreline. The site is primarily located along the Lower Potomac River and on either side of MD 224 in southwestern Charles County. (See Map 1 – Regional Context) The management of this property offers a unique opportunity for Federal, State, and local agencies to work together in a seamless effort with the public to both protect the quality resources in this area for generations to come and to allow compatible passive recreational use of these public lands.

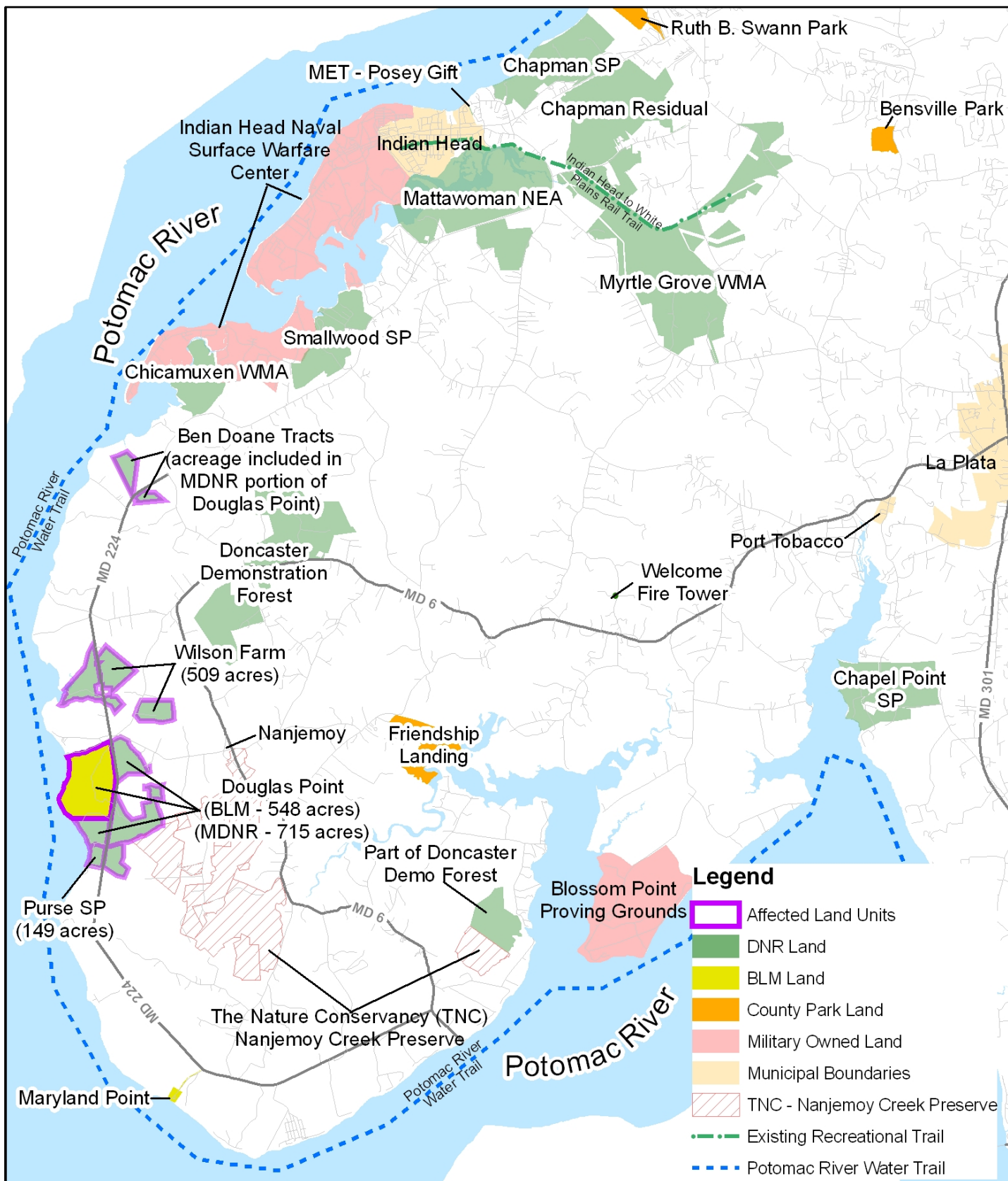
PURPOSE, PROCESS & SCOPE OF PLAN

Purpose

This Land Unit Implementation Plan is intended to be the vehicle that transforms the comprehensive concepts identified in the Lower Potomac River Proposed Consolidated Management Plan (CMP), and approved by the Decision Record, into site-specific public use and resource management strategies that can be implemented in phases as appropriate to site conditions, demand, partnerships, and funding over time. This plan is intended to guide site specific decision making for the next ten to fifteen years, but will remain in effect until it becomes necessary to update.

Planning Process

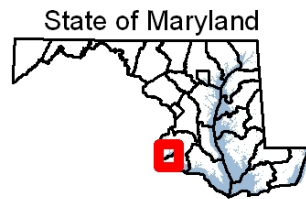
A cooperative initiative began in December 2000 when the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Land Management—Eastern States (BLM), the Commissioners of Charles County, and The Conservation Fund (TCF) signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provided for a coordinated strategy for (1) land acquisition, (2) long-range planning, (3) community involvement, and (4) ongoing stewardship. Acquisition of these properties occurred in December 2001.



This map was created for general planning purposes. It was compiled by Resource Planning from data sets available at the time of analysis and may not match current conditions. Map created 9/22/05.

Map 1 - Regional Context

0 1 2 4 Miles



From December of 2001 to August 2004, the BLM and MDNR worked cooperatively with the Nanjemoy Vision group and the public in creating the Lower Potomac River Proposed Coordinated Management Plan (CMP). The planning area was larger and included both the Ben Doane and Maryland Point tracts. (See Map 1 - Regional Context) In September 2004, the BLM and MDNR formally adopted the CMP with the release of the Decision Record.

From September 2004 to the present, staff from the BLM, MDNR and Charles County have been working with the public in creating an implementation plan that will guide future public use and resource management decision making at Douglas Point. The planning area for this implementation plan was narrowed to focus on the core three properties: Wilson Farm, Douglas Point (State and Federal portions), and Purse State Park. Although the Ben Doane tracts are not excluded from this implementation plan, the current activities and infrastructure will continue to be managed as they are now. These activities

include hunting, wildlife viewing, and possible forest management activities to maintain a diverse and healthy forest ecosystem. If changes in infrastructure and activities are proposed in the future at the Ben Doane Tracts, the changes will be reviewed and implemented in accordance with the criteria set forth for a Douglas Point property in the CMP. The BLM removed Maryland Point from this process because it requires additional site analysis. The future of Maryland Point will be addressed in a separate public process. See Appendix A for a detailed overview of the complete planning process from 2000 to 2005.

Scope—Lands Affected by Plan

This implementation plan encompasses 1,921 acres managed by the BLM and MDNR. See Map 1 for the properties addressed in this plan. The planning area is primarily comprised of the three properties: Wilson Farm, Douglas Point, and Purse State Park. Current management of these three properties is between the BLM, MDNR. Figure 1 identifies the parcels affected by this implementation plan.

Tract Name	Managing Entity	Acreage	Location
Douglas Point	BLM portion	548 acres	West of MD 224
Douglas Point	MDNR portion	715 acres *	East/West of MD 224
Wilson Farm	MDNR	509 acres	East/West of MD 224
Purse State Park	MDNR	149 acres	East/West of MD 224
Implementation Planning		Area = 1,921 acres	

Figure 1 – Affected Land Units.

* includes the Ben Doane Tracts

SITE ANALYSIS

Implementation Opportunities & Constraints

The site analysis identifies the opportunities and constraints that affected the management goals and recommendations found later in this implementation plan. See Map 2 – Site Analysis, for an overview of the existing conditions and sensitive areas. A comprehensive discussion of all the existing conditions relevant to this planning area can be found in the Coordinated Management Plan (CMP).

This implementation plan identifies strategies to further protect the pristine natural characteristics of this area by primarily placing more intensive activities and infrastructure on previously disturbed areas, mostly on the riverside portion of the Wilson Farm tract at Malloys Bay. The remaining portion of Wilson Farm, all of Douglas Point, and Pursa State Park will provide more limited recreational opportunities, while maximizing protection and conservation of all the area's natural resources. Further restrictions are placed on any infrastructure or activity that is placed within the Critical Area (See Map 2).

REGIONAL CONTEXT

The citizens in and around the Nanjemoy community, the County, the State and non-profit conservation organizations, such as Trust for Public Lands (TPL) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) agree that this area is one of the most ecologically pristine and culturally significant areas remaining in the state of Maryland (CMP, 2004).

These groups are working together to develop a conservation strategy to protect and maintain the existing natural features, provide for a quality recreational experience without overwhelming or degrading the resources, and allow for nature tourism in the region.

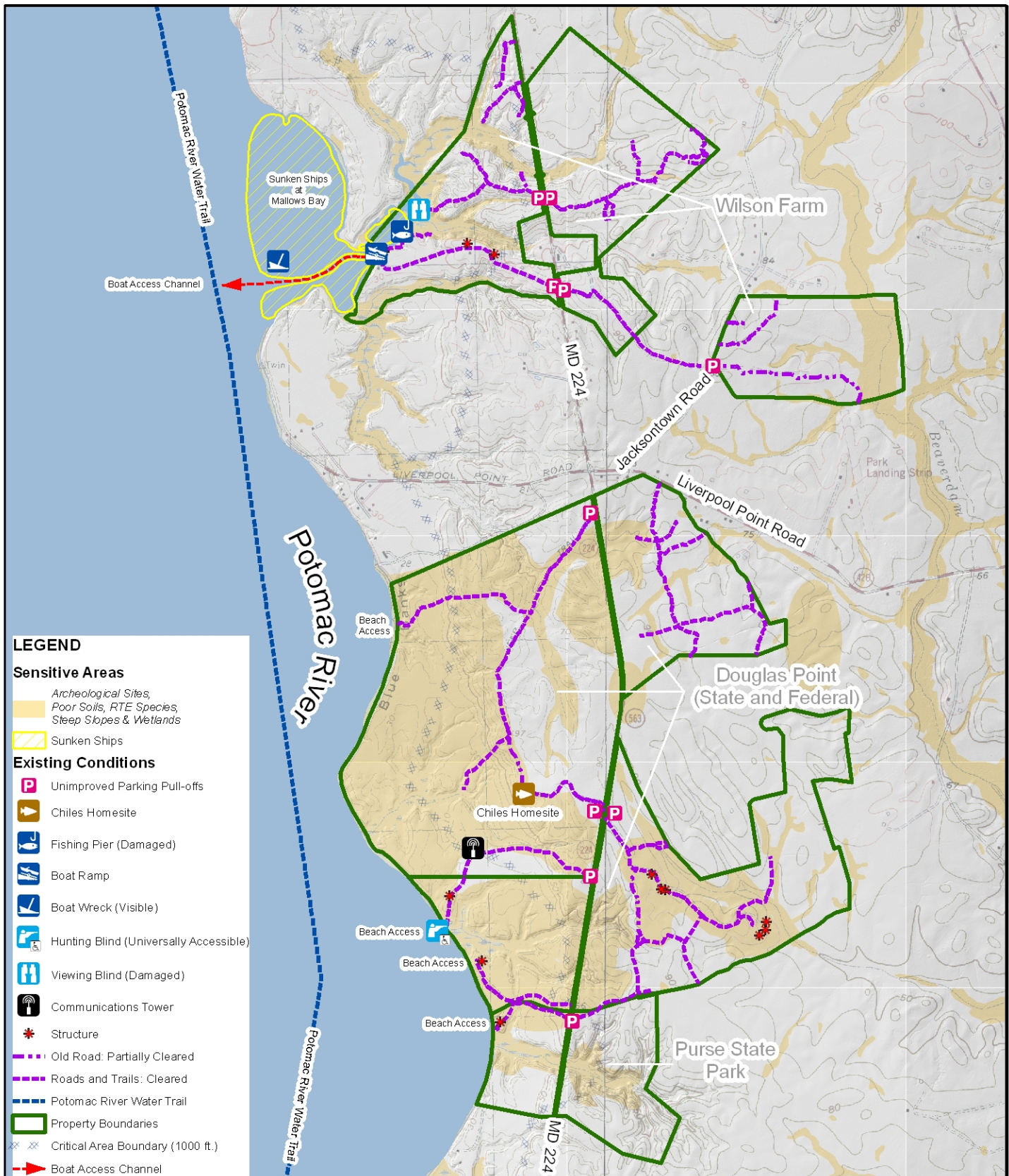
The Charles County Comprehensive Plan (1997), identified an increase in demand for recreational

trails and opportunities to protect and maintain ecological greenway connections between park facilities and resource lands. The County currently manages approximately 2,700 acres of county or municipal parkland, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) manages approximately 15,368 acres, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages approximately 548 acres of public land (MDNR Acreage Report, 2004) in Charles County. In the 1999 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, Charles County identified waterfront access, development of regional facilities, and hiking and biking trails as areas in need of expansion.

The properties affected by this implementation plan will help the County fulfill the goals set forth in both of their plans. Since these lands will remain in public hands in perpetuity, the acreage of protected ecological greenway corridors in the County is increased. The County will also move towards their goal of increasing waterfront access to the Potomac River by leasing the Wilson Farm property to utilize as a County waterfront park.

Furthermore, implementation of this plan will ensure dedicated parking, access, and related infrastructure at Wilson Farm to tie this area into the Potomac River Water Trail, which is a bi-state effort to establish water trails along both sides of the tidal portion of the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay (Maryland Atlas of Greenways, Water Trails, and Green Infrastructure, 2000).

These lands also provide a permanent protected alignment and corridor for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST), a component of the National Trails System Act of 1968. As of August 2005, the following trails are recognized as segments of the PHNST: the Prince George's County Potomac Heritage Trail On-Road



Map 2 - Site Analysis

This map was created for general planning purposes. It was compiled by Resource Planning from data sets available at the time of analysis and may not match current conditions. Map created 9/22/05.

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



Bicycling Route (between the National Colonial Farm and Oxon Cove Park); the Great Allegheny Passage and Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail (in western Pennsylvania and Maryland); the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath; and the Potomac Heritage Trail and Mount Vernon Trail (along the George Washington Memorial Parkway). Like other regions of the PHNST corridor, the transportation plan for the Tri-County area, including Charles County, indicates a bicycling route between Point Lookout State Park (in southern St. Mary's County, Maryland) and Accokeek, Maryland, as a proposed segment of the PHNST. The BLM, Charles County officials and organizations (e.g. Potomac Heritage Trail Association, Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club, Chesapeake Floating Theatre, etc.) are developing applications to use the PHNST corridor designation.



Photo courtesy of MDNR IRC

Protection of 1.8 miles of the Potomac shoreline now permanently conserves the habitat for multiple bald eagle nesting sites that are located in the planning area.

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

This section of the plan identifies how the existing infrastructure has been utilized during implementation planning.

During the resource assessment and site analysis process, staff performed field surveys to identify site-specific existing infrastructure to assess its effect on implementation plans.

Boat Ramp

An old boat ramp exists on the riverfront portion of Wilson Farm. The boat ramp was utilized by a former owner as a private boat launching facility. The boat ramp also acts as the entrance to the remains of a boating access lane (marked by buoys) that provided boaters with access to the Potomac River mainstem.

Staff determined that the boat ramp requires improvement and the access lane re-marked to accommodate any future public use.

Communications Tower

A 300-ft. tall, guyed emergency communications tower exists on the BLM portion of Douglas Point. The tower is located within a fenced equipment compound of approximately 50 x 75 ft. The site was established prior to the BLM acquiring property ownership. The site provides emergency services communications to the Nanjemoy peninsula.

The State of Maryland's Institute for Emergency Medical Services (MIEMS) has indicated the current location of the tower is not adequate to meet their needs and has requested that the tower be relocated closer to MD 224, probably on the MDNR property.

Parking Areas

Staff identified many existing informal parking areas on each of the properties. While Purse State Park has a graded, multi-car parking area (10 cars), most of the remaining parking areas on the other properties exist only as informal pull-offs at the entrances of the old road corridors.

For maintenance, monitoring, and security purposes, staff determined that a few improved, but relatively small parking areas (maximum 10 cars) would better serve the area rather than the current configuration.

Piers

There are currently two piers that exist in the study area. One is being utilized as an active waterfowl hunting blind (accessible by disabled persons) on the MDNR portion of Douglas Point. Another, older pier is located on the riverside portion of Wilson Farm, where it is unusable due to damage by a fallen tree that is currently lying across its boardwalk. The County has expressed interest, if funds are available, in restoring that pier to accommodate future public use.

Roads and Trails

Staff identified and analyzed the existing roads and old road corridors by conducting a field survey using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The results of this survey are labeled “Roads and Trails” on Map 2 – Site Analysis.

Many of the roads and trails were created as old logging roads. Others were created to provide access to private property. Although a few of the roads were still recently maintained to accommodate vehicular traffic, many others have succumbed to nature’s reclamation process and are starting to fill back in with shrubs, fallen timber, and other debris. In addition, as a result of poor design/construction techniques, some road and trail segments suffer from erosion problems or pass through wetlands. Consequently, some existing road and trail segments are clear, unobstructed, and ready for travel, while others will require extensive maintenance and clearing.

The overall guidance set forth by the CMP, recommended that any proposed trail system would have to be developed utilizing the already existing network of roads and trails, although it allowed for trail connections (CMP, 2004). Staff identified road and trail segments that had an impact on natural (e.g. wetlands) or cultural

resources (e.g. near archeological sites), are redundant, or present potential public safety concerns (See Structures section below), and eliminated these segments from the planned trail system.



Photo courtesy of Matt Bucchin

An example of a cleared, old road corridor to be incorporated into the future trail system.

Structures

Approximately eleven partial or full structures exist throughout the properties. Most of these structures are in various states of disrepair. For example, only two non-historic chimney’s (one stone, one brick) remain on the MDNR properties of Purse State Park and the riverside portion of Douglas Point. Multiple structures also exist on the inland portion of MDNR Douglas Point, where some remain standing, while others have completely collapsed.

Although the MDNR has a formal structure-removal process, which includes coordination with Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and the

State Clearinghouse, fiscal constraints and staffing limitations prevent the immediate removal of all of these structures. Consequently, The BLM and MDNR determined that publicly accessible areas (e.g. trails) would not be located near any structure that could be potentially hazardous to the public.



An old structure that still exists in the inland portion of MDNR Douglas Point.

NATURAL RESOURCES

This section of the plan details how the site-specific existing natural resources affected implementation plans.

Critical Area

For purposes of protecting the Chesapeake Bay and regional waterways, shorelines, and related habitats, Maryland law requires stringent review and approval of land use changes on properties located within the Critical Area. The Critical Area is defined as waters of and lands under the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and all land and water areas within 1000 feet of the mean high water line of tidal waters and the landward edge of tidal wetlands. In addition, the first 100-feet of the Critical Area has further restrictions, and is known as the Critical Area 100-foot Buffer. This 100 ft. buffer expands when adjacent to steep slopes (greater than 15 percent), tidal wetlands and streams, highly erodible soils, or sensitive habitats (CMP, 2004).

A significant portion of the planning area is located within the Critical Area. All proposed development, uses, and activities located within the Critical Area must comply with the State of Maryland's Critical Area Regulations, which includes removal of vegetation and protection of Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) habitat.

Fisheries & Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

The important recreational and commercial fisheries resources are mainly confined to the Potomac River mainstem. However, some of the highest quality fish habitat on the Lower Potomac is found at Mallows Bay. It is only one of three areas on the Lower Potomac that consistently produce higher numbers of juvenile bass. A primary reason for this is the high quality Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) grassbeds that exist within the inlet area between the shoreline and Mallows Bay. Another reason is the old sunken ships which provide structure and have become an integral part of the aquatic ecosystem. The old ships provide habitat for both fish and invertebrates.

Although a motorized and a non-motorized boat ramp are proposed at Wilson Farm, site design reviews and use regulations will ensure protection of this high quality fishery habitat for the future. Annual monitoring by MDNR Fisheries Service will be used to determine if stricter measures will need to be implemented in the future.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species

The special status species (also known as RTE species) are listed and regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Maryland.

Natural Resources Article, section 10-2A, Maryland's Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act, states that it is the policy of the State to conserve species of wildlife for human enjoyment, for scientific purposes, and to insure their perpetuation as viable components of the ecosystem. As part of this important statute, the General Assembly also established that species of wildlife and plants normally occurring within the State, which may be found to be

threatened or endangered within the State, should be accorded the protection necessary to maintain and enhance their numbers.

The bald eagle is one Federally and State-listed species that is known to nest in the planning area, another is the sensitive joint-vetch that may occur in freshwater tidal wetlands, and also the dwarf wedge mussel is known to occur adjacent to the planning area. The planning area includes habitat for numerous species that are rare, threatened or endangered in Maryland (CMP, 2004).

Areas that contain RTE species are considered sensitive areas. Placing activities and/or infrastructure in these areas is either avoided or impacts will be mitigated during the design or on-the-ground implementation phases.

Soils and Steep Slopes

Soil types in the planning area are basically sand, silt or clay, or a combinations thereof. The soil types present affect drainage, vegetation, and stability. Problem soils usually are wet or highly erodible. Soil type can affect the location of trails, buildings, and roads. Poor soil conditions may exacerbate maintenance and management problems.

Areas that include slopes greater than 15 percent or contain poor soil conditions are considered sensitive areas. Placing activities and/or infrastructure in these areas is to be either avoided or impacts will be mitigated during the design implementation phases.

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas where water is the primary factor controlling the environment and associated plant and animal life. They act as transitional communities between aquatic and upland areas, with a water source present at or near the surface of the land. Plants that are capable of growing in water or very wet soils usually dominate wetlands. Soil characteristics of wetlands are different from those of dry, upland sites.

Wetlands play a crucial role in enhancing water quality, providing a water supply, and serving as

a natural means of flood and erosion control. Wetlands are also among the most productive and important biotic communities, as they serve as essential breeding areas, and display a great diversity of plant and animal life. Many species of wildlife spend all or certain seasons of the year in wetland habitats for breeding, brood rearing, feeding, or protective cover. Some fish species use wetlands for egg laying, feeding, and protection. Wetlands function as sanctuaries for RTE species (CMP, 2004).

There are both tidal and nontidal wetlands in the study area. Tidal wetlands are those that are affected by the daily and periodic rise and fall of the tide within the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Nontidal wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency sufficient to support vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.



This non-tidal wetland at Purse State Park provides habitat for a diversity of plant and animal species.

Areas that contained tidal or nontidal wetlands were considered sensitive areas. Placing activities and/or infrastructure in these areas was either avoided or impacts will be minimized and/or mitigated during the design or on-the-ground implementation phases.

Wildlife

There is a close relationship between the types, diversity and numbers of wildlife populating an area and the quality, diversity and size of the

available habitat. An understanding of this relationship is important when considering and evaluating new activities and land uses and the effect they may have on the native species. Some species are sensitive to specific changes, while others are extremely tolerant and adaptive. If some native species are becoming scarce due to loss of habitat, locally or regionally within their range, then they may be protected by Federal, State or local regulations (CMP, 2004).

The Douglas Point region is rich with mast producing trees and fruit producing understory vegetation. As a result, the planning area contains many game and non-game mammal species, including but not exclusively, masked shrew, foxes, otters, opossum, moles, bats, skunk, mink, raccoon, and white-tailed deer (CMP, 2004).

The area is also home to a multitude of perching birds such as blue jays, robins, sparrows and blue birds, and a variety of ducks as well as Canada geese. Wading birds also are common including the great blue heron and green heron. Other birds such as mourning dove and wild turkey can be also found, along with a healthy population of raptors such as barred owls, osprey, hawks, and bald eagles. The large unbroken forest also provides habitat for Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Species (FIDS), where many neotropical migrant songbirds rely on the large forested areas in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to breed and nest.

In 1980, the Douglas Point tract contained a reported 24 reptile and 18 amphibian species. Currently, one can readily find several species of frogs, toads, turtles, salamanders, lizards, and snakes (CMP, 2004).

During the interim management period, the MDNR Wildlife and Heritage Service has provided Managed Hunting on all of the properties. All hunters are issued (1) a MDNR permit, (2) a map, and (3) instructions as to where they can hunt, after they submit their mailing address, phone number, vehicle tag numbers, and official documentation of their Southern Maryland hunting license. A

reservation is required for all types of hunting and may be obtained up to eight days in advance.

Currently, land-based hunting is available six days a week. No hunting is allowed on Sundays. Off-shore waterfowl hunting is available two to three days a week during the Resident Canada Goose, Duck, and Migratory Canada Goose seasons. There are currently six waterfowl hunting blind sites. The locations are not designated on Map 2, as they may change from year to year. There is also a universally accessible (for disabled visitors or hunters) waterfowl blind site available on the MDNR Douglas Point property. More specific information regarding hunting seasons, dates, and times can be found on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website at www.dnr.state.md.us/huntersguide/index.asp.

Vegetation

Vegetation within the planning area reflects the region's unique location between the northern limit of several southern species and southern limit of northern species. Most of the landscape, however, has been altered by prior human activity. Nevertheless, climate, soil and human disturbance has created six major vegetative communities, including the upland communities of hardwood, mixed hardwood-pine, pine forest, open fields, tidal wetlands, and freshwater wetlands. Although some forest stands may contain trees over 100 years in age, the stands are all secondary growth. Past agricultural practices in the area were a primary cause of land clearing (Jensen, 1980).

FOREST INTERIOR DWELLING SPECIES (FIDS) HABITAT

The planning area contains remarkably large blocks of relatively unbroken forest that extends eastward into the watershed of Nanjemoy Creek. This high quality FIDS habitat provides: (1) habitat for even the most wide-ranging and area-sensitive wildlife, and (2) ecosystem integrity and habitat stability even in the face of disturbance, such as fire, tornados, etc. The Nature Conservancy and the MDNR Natural Heritage Program recognize this block of forest as one of just thirteen sites on the Coastal Plain

of Maryland that is large enough to meet these two criteria. It is more than twice the size of the other sites identified in southern Maryland. The most mature sections of forest show little evidence of encroachment by invasive species or other signs of artificial disturbance. Forest stands of similar age and quality are rare in southern Maryland. While these other stands are generally palustrine wetlands, on the Douglas Point tract they are also present as upland communities, which is unusual considering the agricultural history of the area. While further data collection would be necessary to characterize and rank the forest communities on site, it is clear that high quality communities are present (CMP, 2004).

FORESTRY

The overall guidance provided by the CMP recognizes the value of both the existing unique and diverse forest habitat, and the value of implementing forest management activities as an appropriate tool for maintaining healthy, sustainable forests on public lands. The CMP allows for forest management activities on the State-owned Douglas Point properties.

Public forest lands in Maryland are established and managed under laws that allow or mandate sustainable forestry. Natural Resource Article, Sections §5-102 and §5-214 establish multiple-objective management for forests, both public and private, including, but not limited to, wood fiber, forest recreation, wildlife, fish, forest watershed and wilderness. It is also the policy of the State to encourage economic management and scientific development of its forests and woodlands to maintain, conserve, and improve soil resources of the State so that an adequate source of forest products are preserved for the people. The MDNR recognizes the value of developing Forest Stewardship Plans to accomplish these objectives. Compatible forest management activities could include selective harvests, thinning, gap-creation, tree plantings, etc.

When carefully planned and supervised by professional foresters and other resource specialists, forest management activities can also

be compatible, and even enhance fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or recreational experiences.

CULTURAL & PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Cultural Resources

The cultural (historic, pre-historic, and archeological) influences that humans have had on the land over time provide a context for understanding the region, its resources, and its inhabitants. The CMP provides a more complete historical and cultural overview for the planning area.

ARCHEOLOGY & UNDERWATER ARCHEOLOGY

Over the millennia, many cultures and people have called the Nanjemoy Peninsula home. Archaeologists have found traces of prehistoric Native American cultures dating from 12,000 years before present (B.P.) to the historic European and American settlement of the Potomac River. The area has also supported populations of Native Americans at the time of first contact with Europeans in the early 17th century. After European settlement, many of the indigenous people were displaced, though traces of a Native American community still exist within Charles County.

The region has also figured prominently in colonial history, the American Revolution, and the Civil War. During the Civil War, the Union Army moved into Charles County. Large-scale military establishments were placed along the Potomac River in Charles County under the charge of Union General Joseph Hooker. Hooker's installations had their headquarters around Stump Neck and Rum Point, with extensive operations around Liverpool Point, Mallows Bay, and Douglas Point.

The inlet at Wilson Farm, known as Mallows Bay, has the distinction of being the largest wooden ship graveyard in the Western Hemisphere (Shomette, 1996). The burned-out remains of at least 88 wooden steamships and a plethora of other vessels sit in the bottom



Photo courtesy of MDNR IRC

The sunken ships at Mallows Bay provide the public with a unique opportunity to paddle through and around remnants of WW I history.

sediments in the cove. Most of these ships were constructed during a U.S. World War I effort to quickly produce many cargo and troop transports to minimize the impact of German submarine attacks on supply routes. Over the years, various failed corporate salvage operations brought the ships to Mallows Bay where they played a role in the local economy by providing jobs and materials for local scrap collectors.

In the 1960's during the Congressional hearings regarding possible removal of the ships, several groups provided testimony suggesting that the ship hulls, having been there for almost 40 years, had become an integral part of the Mallows Bay ecosystem and the local fishery. For various reasons they were never removed, and the ships remain today. Many of the sunken ships have trapped sediments and collected plant life to become artificial islands. In addition to the wooden ships, other ship remains have been found, including 12 barges, several 19th Century log canoes and schooners, various workboats, a car ferry called the Accomac, and possibly a Revolutionary War longboat (CMP, 2004).

HISTORIC & PRE-HISTORIC ELEMENTS

On the BLM and State portions of Douglas Point, 23 historic and prehistoric sites are documented within the archives maintained by the Maryland Historical Trust, though very few professional archaeological surveys have been completed within the planning area.

One historic site, known as the Chiles Homesite, or Mt. Pleasant, has been the focus of recent archaeological investigations led by BLM through a partnership with the College of William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research. The Chiles site was first documented as part of an architectural inventory in 1974; however no other detailed archaeological investigations or evaluations were conducted until the present time.

In 2004, BLM received funding from the Federal Highway Administration to complete an archaeological survey and evaluation of this 18th-19th century homesite sufficient to determine the site's eligibility for listing on the National

Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The end result of this evaluation will be a comprehensive interpretive plan to provide the public with an opportunity for cultural and historical interpretation along a developed 1.5 mile trail system that transects the BLM tract.



Photo courtesy of Matt Buchin

During a recent open house of Chiles Homesite, students gain first-hand experience learning about archeology from staff of the William & Mary Center for Archeological Research (WMCAR).

This project is a deliberate attempt to further involve the local community in the early stages of planning for an interpretive trail. This trail will provide a historical connection for residents and visitors to learn more about 18th and 19th century lifeways and early settlement along the Potomac River. Volunteers, local government agencies, and residents will work alongside the BLM and its partners to discover the evidence of these past lifeways for development of the Chiles Interpretive Trail.

The other known cultural sites on the Douglas Point property need further investigation to determine their eligibility for inclusion on the NRHP. BLM and MDNR accept their role as a steward of historic and prehistoric resources. Any proposed undertaking that could cause ground disturbance is subject to review and compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations found within 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800: Sections 106 and 110, and the corresponding State regulations. Potential effects to noted cultural resources will be avoided until further evaluation and

consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust is completed. All ground disturbing activities require review and approval in advance by the landowner.

Paleontological Resources

The geologic formations exposed in the bed and shores of the Potomac River in the Douglas Point area age from recent sediments to the sands and clays of the Miocene, Eocene, and Paleocene Age (5 to 65 million years ago). Where the Potomac River cuts into these older sediments, low cliffs have been created, occasionally exposing the fossils of marine and terrestrial animals that lived in the region eons ago.

These formations are nearshore deposits of the early Atlantic Ocean, and include several hundred yards of shoreline near Wilson Farm, approximately one mile of the Douglas Point Shoreline, and several hundred yards of Purse State Park shoreline (CMP, 2004). They contain fossils of fish, sharks, rays, crocodiles and turtles. Fossil shells of gastropods and mollusks are also relatively common. When these fossils are exposed on the cliff faces, they are gradually eroded and transported down slope as river deposits.

If they are discovered before extensive erosion has occurred, rather complete specimens of these animals have been excavated. Properly excavated, these represent important scientific specimens. Since erosion of the cliff faces is an ongoing process, it can be expected that interesting specimens will continue to appear in the cliffs. It can also be expected that the materials will erode and mix with the other detritus on the shore and then be transported away from its origin by the river or the tides. These intact deposits, fossils and paleontological remains located within the cliff faces (i.e. primary context) are protected by State and Federal law. These remains are not open to collection, disturbance or removal, without prior permission from the BLM and MDNR.



This gradually eroding cliff near Douglas Point contains a diverse collection of fossil deposits.

RECREATION EXPERIENCES & SETTINGS

There are approximately 28 public land units in Charles County covering a total of 18,913 acres, including the Nanjemoy Creek Preserve tracts, (which are ecological preserves protected by The Nature Conservancy). These areas provide a variety of resource-based outdoor recreation experiences in rural natural settings, including the enjoyment of quiet, tranquil dense hardwood forests or peaceful serene expanses of the Lower Potomac River. People use these areas to practice skills in nature observation, hunting, fishing, and photography, either on foot, canoe, kayak, or motorized boat. MD 224 carries little traffic past the intersection with Liverpool Point Road, and is often used by bicyclists. Local residents also have a keen interest in the history of the area, and exploring historic sites is a popular activity. The Blue Banks area (the popular name for the 20-30 foot high bluffs on the Douglas Point shoreline) is popular for viewing invertebrate fossils and ancient sharks' teeth, exposed continually by the erosive waters of the Potomac. Other than the Blue Banks, there are a few sandy beaches (which allow for canoeists and kayakers to land) and several marshy inlets. Some of these are important breeding areas for waterfowl, eagles and osprey.

Although the Nanjemoy Peninsula is surrounded by the Potomac River, much of the shoreline is privately owned, and there are few points for the public to access the water. Smallwood State Park, six miles north of the study area, provides launching and parking for large powerboats, along with camping and picnicking facilities. Purse State Park provides a footpath down to Wade's Bay, which is known as a good bass fishery. Wilson Farm has been closed to the public for the past several years as the State undertook the acquisition and clean up of the property, however there had been a private marina previously at the site, and there is a small boat launching ramp, along with several cleared level areas previously occupied by fishing shacks. The fishing is excellent, thanks to the habitat provided by the submerged wrecks sheltering extensive beds of submerged aquatic vegetation.

Throughout the planning process the public has voiced preferences to maintain the natural characteristics of the properties in the planning area, while allowing nature-based experiences described above.

SITE PLAN

Working within the overall guidance set forth by the approved Coordinated Management Plan (CMP), staff from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) overlaid the sites' existing sensitive areas to identify opportunities and constraints for future use and development.

The Site Plan consists of two parts. The first identifies managerial responsibility for the State and Federal parcels throughout the entire planning area.

The second part of the Site Plan includes two maps. The first is the Site Concept Map which highlights what is planned throughout the whole planning area, except at the Ben Doane Tracts of Douglas Point. The second is an inset of the Site Plan. In greater detail, the inset map specifically identifies what is planned by Charles County to be implemented on the riverside portion of Wilson Farm.

LAND UNIT DESIGNATION & MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

On the State side, Land Units are officially designated according to their significance, resource management practices and recreational focus, or by a special act enacted by the Maryland General Assembly. Land Unit Designations as identified in the Maryland Code of Regulations (COMAR), include State Parks (SP), State Forests (SF), Natural Resource

Management Areas (NRMA), Natural Environment Areas (NEA), Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Fish Management Areas (FMA), State Wildlands, and newly acquired Undesignated Areas.

The MDNR identifies an appropriate land use designation for each new site as it moves through the planning process after property acquisition, during which the physical attributes of the site are researched and when the site is investigated in more detail. When determining the designation, the attributes and capabilities of the site, the overall goals of the acquisition and plan, and the recreational opportunities and needs in the region are all considered. Based on this information, a designation is recommended to MDNR Executive Staff.

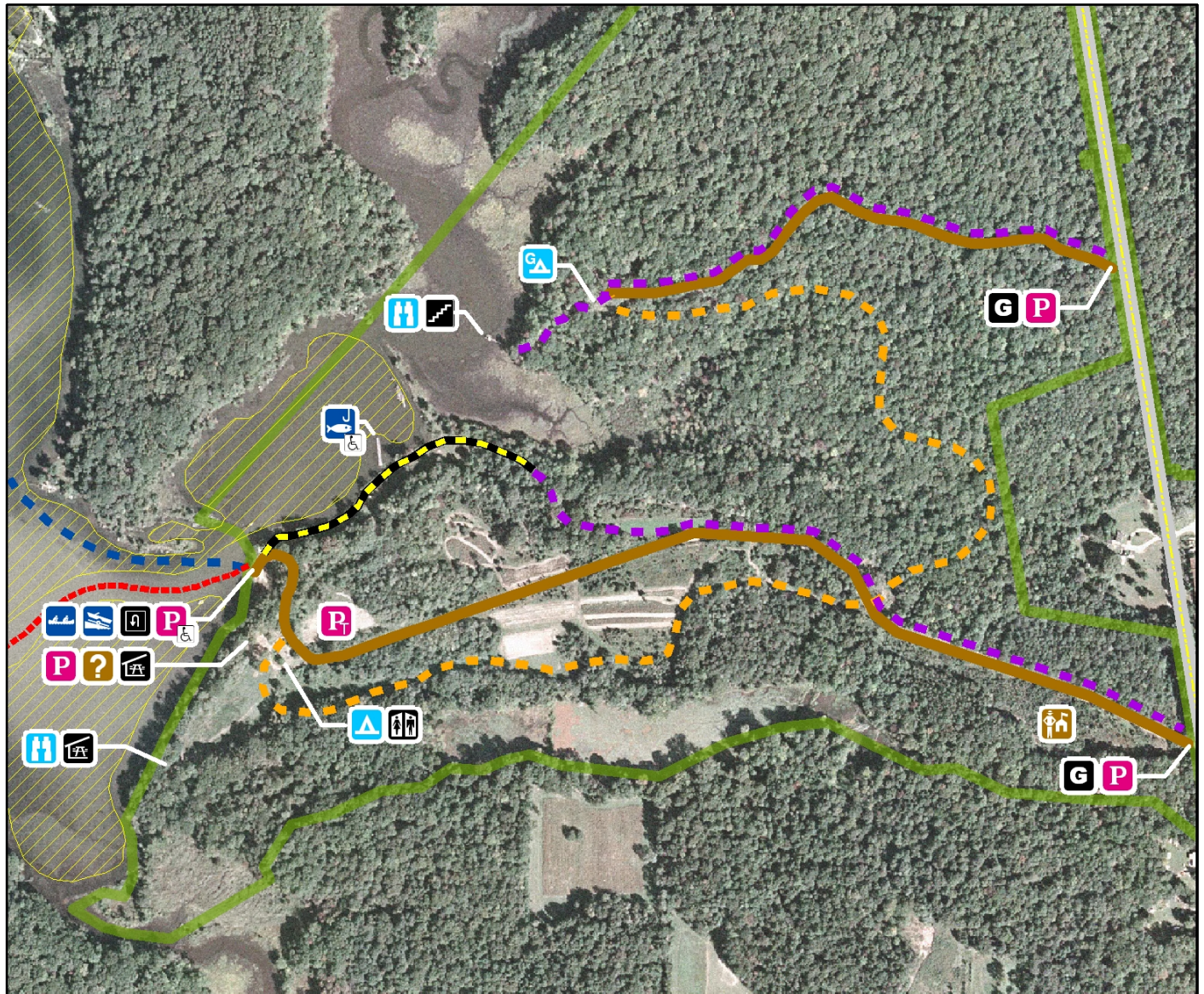
Land Unit Designation

Based upon the above mentioned process, MDNR Executive Staff, in agreement with the BLM, determined that each of these land units will be combined into a regional, single land unit called the Nanjemoy NRMA.

The MDNR's individual tracts will be identified as "Areas." Although Purse State Park will be re-designated as part of the regional Nanjemoy NRMA, it will retain Purse as its individual area name. (See Figure 2) BLM's portion of Douglas Point will also be included in the Nanjemoy NRMA. Individually, it will be identified as the Douglas Point Special Recreation Management

Old Tract Name	New Area Name	Managing Agency
Douglas Point (Federal)	Douglas Point SRMA	BLM
Douglas Point (State)	Douglas Point Area	MDNR
	Ben Doane Area	MDNR
Purse State Park	Purse Area	MDNR
Wilson Farm	Wilson Farm Area (East of MD 224)	MDNR
	Mallows Bay Area (West of MD 224)	Charles County

Figure 2: Nanjemoy NRMA—New Area Names and Managing Agency.



LEGEND

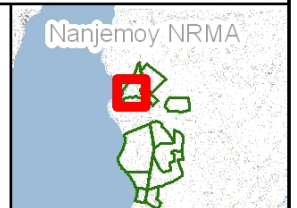
- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Universally Accessible Parking | Viewing Blind (Potential Restoration) | Property Boundary |
| Parking (Max. 8 spaces) | Individual Camp Sites (Future Dev.) | Sunken Ships |
| Trailer Parking (Max. 20 spaces) | Group Camping (Future Dev.) | Multi-Use Trail: Existing |
| Visitor Center/Contact Station (Pot. Fut. Dev.) | Picnic Shelter (20 ft. x 24 ft.) | Canoe/Kayak Water Trail |
| Informational Kiosk | Restrooms | Multi-Use Trail: Prop. Conn. |
| Fishing Pier (Potential Restoration) | Vehicle/Trailer Turn Around Area | Universally Accessible Trail |
| Single Lane Motorized Boat Launch | Steps to Viewing Blind | MD 224 |
| Canoe/Kayak Launch | Gate (Opened/Closed Seasonally) | Roads and Trails |
| | | Boat Access Channel |



This map was created for general planning purposes. It was compiled by Resource Planning from data sets available at the time of analysis and may not match current conditions. Map created 9/22/05.

Map 4 - Mallows Bay Area Site Plan

0 500 1,000 Feet



Area (SRMA), as it was officially designated in the administrative decision for the Coordinated Management Plan (CMP) (Decision Record, 2004).

The State of Maryland regulations, COMAR 08.07.06.01, defines a NRMA as an area where multiple-use management practices are employed for the maximum use of the natural resources of the area. The Bureau of Land Management defines a SRMA as an area where staffing and funding are committed to provide for recreation opportunities (Decision Record, 2004).

The NRMA and SRMA Land Unit designations allow for the appropriate protection of sensitive resource areas, while still allowing compatible recreational uses.

The overall guidance provided by the CMP both allows and encourages protecting more land holdings in this area. The NRMA designation allows for future inclusion of other potential acquisitions or conservation easements within the designated study area.

From this point on, the text will identify each land unit by their recommended name.

Management Responsibilities

Although the BLM, MDNR, and Charles County have agreed to coordinate and make the operation of the properties under each agency's jurisdiction as seamless as possible to the public, all three agencies will share responsibility for the day-to-day management of these properties and will need to coordinate on a regular basis.

The BLM will manage the day-to-day operations of the 548-acre Douglas Point SRMA out of the Lower Potomac Field Station in Lorton, Virginia.

The MDNR owns the remaining 1,370 acres and will manage the day-to-day operations on all but the 185-acre Malloys Bay Area. The MDNR management responsibility will be internally documented by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the different branches of

MDNR. These participating individual branches will be known as the MDNR Management Team.

The Wildlife and Heritage Service will be the lead agency for managing the State property on behalf of the State of Maryland. This Land Unit Manager will lead the MDNR Management Team to facilitate the creation of an Annual Work Plan in conjunction with the BLM, and the County. This Annual Work Plan will guide any site-specific actions taken during an individual year, in accordance with the recommendations approved by the CMP and this Land Unit Implementation Plan.

Charles County will be managing (via a long-term lease agreement) the day-to-day operations at the Malloys Bay Area. The lease will cover approximately 185 acres and the County will utilize this area primarily as a waterfront park in order to increase public access to the Lower Potomac River (See Figure 2 and Map 4).

The next section of the Land Unit Implementation Plan will cover the management goals and recommendations that will guide the day-to-day decision making for the Nanjemoy NRMA, regarding the management of resources and public use.

MANAGEMENT GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This plan is intended to guide the daily operations of this site for the next 10 to 15 years, but will remain in effect until a new plan is approved. Although a planning analysis is intended to be thorough and complete, no plan can fully predict all activities, uses, and/or issues that may occur over time. Any proposals or activities that involve changes in land use or disturbance to natural conditions on State lands require a Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Project Review. Furthermore, any activity, use, or issue that is not covered by applicable Federal or State law, regulation, program, nor covered through the Management Recommendations set forth in this plan should be submitted to either Bureau of Land Management (BLM), if on Federal lands, or MDNR Resource Planning, if on State lands, for an interdisciplinary Project Review.

This plan will be implemented in phases as funds become available. Implementation of facility development will occur in phases according to demand, staffing, and available funding (See Phasing Priorities & Budget section).

Plan implementation is to be accomplished with the regular observation and monitoring of both utilization and the condition of the natural and cultural resources. Monitoring will provide information that will help guide future management decisions.

Land Unit Managers will achieve a successful operational balance, within reasonable limits, by utilizing adaptive management and developing a monitoring plan to prevent overuse or diminishing resource quality.

Signs of overuse or abuse of the resources will be taken seriously and confronted rather than allowing the natural value to diminish incrementally over time due to factors that are controllable.

The actual “on-the-ground” implementation of this plan will be guided by applicable Federal and State laws, regulations, and programs. See Appendices B and C for a non-exhaustive list of the applicable Federal and State laws, regulations, and programs. The management recommendations that appear later in this section assume compliance with these regulations and promote the use of feasible, practicable measures that focus on the specific type of activities involved with implementation of this plan.

The following four overriding goals were established during the first stage of the planning process.

- Maintain the area’s rural character;
- Create opportunities for sustainable economic development;
- Protect the region’s cultural, historic and natural resources; and
- Provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

FACILITY: DESIGN & OPERATIONS

Overall Goal: A unique Federal, State, and local partnership will provide a single unified management style where the public will not be readily able to distinguish between properties managed by the various governmental levels.

Site Design

Goal: Site design will consider and incorporate feasible best management practices into implementation of the management recommendations and will avoid and minimize disturbances to all sensitive areas, including steep slopes, highly erodible soils, wetlands, cultural sites, and other sensitive habitats. See Appendix D for estimated development costs.

Note: Each of the Management Recommendations below are numbered (i.e. MR #) in order to facilitate the ease of identifying a specific recommendation during discussion.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 1 To the maximum extent possible, locate facilities and infrastructure in areas that were previously cleared of vegetation (or otherwise already impacted), avoid high quality habitat, and minimize intrusion into sensitive areas.
- MR 2 Incorporate a landscaping plan that emphasizes the planting of native vegetation to buffer the transition from activity areas to natural areas.
- MR 3 Minimize the total area of impervious surfaces; direct runoff from structures, roads, trails, and parking to bio-retention areas prior to being discharged into any water bodies.
- MR 4 Grading should follow the natural contours of the land, avoid steep slopes, and be constructed to minimize soil compaction, prevent run-off of sediment, and minimize erosion.
- MR 5 Design of new facilities (e.g. buildings, etc.) will incorporate best management practices for stormwater and sediment erosion control in order to blend with, and minimize impact on the environment.

Operations

Goal: Obtain and phase adequate funding, staffing and other resources to implement the recommendations in this plan through partnerships with nonprofit organizations, corporate sponsors, local, State, and Federal government agencies. See Appendix D for estimated annual operational costs.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 6 The BLM and MDNR will jointly encourage volunteer groups (e.g. a “Friends Of”) through both the BLM and MDNR’s volunteer programs. Volunteer help will be enlisted in all aspects of management and programming including maintenance,

monitoring, environmental education and interpretation. Volunteers will not be enlisted or encouraged to assist with law enforcement, safety or other hazardous issues.

- MR 7 The BLM, MDNR, and County will develop and implement the following agreements to coordinate site management of the Nanjemoy NRMA:

- a. An Annual Work Plan, coordinated by the Manager of MDNR Management Team, and a designee from the BLM and the County, that phase proposed improvements and activities over time.
- b. A law enforcement agreement that minimizes jurisdictional issues, makes best use of staff, communications, and equipment, and provides the best service to the public and protection to natural resources.
- c. A fire protection agreement that that builds on the existing BLM/County agreement that allows for rapid response and protection of natural resources and property.
- d. A management/maintenance agreement that leverages the resources available to each agency and maximizes efficiency.

- MR 8 The BLM, MDNR and the County will establish partnerships with other entities to help leverage resources and expand site programs and activities and support operations.

- MR 9 The BLM, MDNR, and County will coordinate and develop maps, brochures, and signage. All documents and/or signage should be consistent across the entire planning area. Directional and informational signage should be placed at each developed parking lot.

- MR 10 The BLM, MDNR, and County may designate areas closed for public entry, as needed, in order to protect resources or ensure public safety.

- MR 11 Parking Areas will be improved, when funds are available and demand is evident, to provide visitor access to the Nanjemoy NRMA.
- MR 12 Abandoned buildings will be removed, when funds are available, in accordance with the MDNR's policy on removing buildings on State lands.
- MR 13 There will only be restrooms and trash facilities provided at the County-managed Mallows Bay Area. The other properties managed by the MDNR and BLM will not provide such facilities.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Overall Goal: To identify, conserve, respect, protect, and enhance the natural features and biological diversity throughout the Nanjemoy NRMA.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 14 Impacts to natural resources will be monitored through the development and implementation of a joint BLM/MDNR monitoring plan, which will lay out the responsibilities, indicators, and monitoring protocols. At a minimum, the following indicators will be monitored:
 - a. Existing locations of all known occurrences of COMAR listed plant and animal species;
 - b. Distribution and density of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) in Mallows Bay;
 - c. Sediment depth and distribution downstream from points where trails cross streams;
 - d. Presence of invasive plants, especially Japanese stiltgrass along trails and parking areas;
 - e. Trail erosion;
 - f. Visitation;
 - g. Development of new unplanned trails (social trails);
 - h. Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS);
 - i. Unique natural communities.

Terrestrial Vegetation

Goal: Manage vegetation in a manner that promotes ecological health, maintains natural communities, protects biodiversity, and enhances visitor experiences.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 15 Control noxious weeds and invasive exotic species throughout the property, consistent with the requirements set forth by the MDNR and BLM. Through use of an integrated pest management plan allow natural development of a stratified understory layer, retain snags, standing dead trees, and coarse woody debris on the forest floor, except in instances where public safety may be an issue. In such cases, where woody debris may need to be removed, it is to be distributed in the adjacent forest floor area. Monitoring and removal of invasive species may be handled through agreements with volunteer organizations, such as the Native Plant Society, etc.
- MR 16 Prior to implementing any forest management activities, the MDNR Forest Service and the Wildlife and Heritage Service will develop a Forest Stewardship Plan consistent with this Land Unit Implementation Plan. The Forest Stewardship Plan will be reviewed by the Management Team to ensure consistency.
- MR 17 Forest management activities must comply with the guidelines established by the Forest Stewardship Plan.
- MR 18 The BLM will work with MDNR and other partners to prepare a proposal to designate some or all of the Douglas Point SRMA an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This designation will allow the BLM to give special management attention to activities which would protect natural or cultural values, or human health. The designation would require an amendment to the CMP.

Aquatic Habitat and Species

Goal: Maintain or enhance the existing high quality aquatic habitat for fish in one of the most productive fisheries in the region.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 19 The BLM, MDNR, and County will maintain the integrity of the remaining old boats in Mallows Bay, by leaving them as they are.
- MR 20 The BLM, MDNR, and County will leave woody debris on the shoreline of the Potomac wherever possible to support fish and shoreline species habitat.
- MR 21 Restrict the speed and routes of power boats with signs as they enter or leave from the Mallows Bay Area boat ramp.
- MR 22 Protect and conserve the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) grasses that provide quality habitat for fish propagation and shelter as they grow.



Photo courtesy of Matt Buccin

Old ships located at the Mallows Bay Area have become an integral part of the aquatic ecosystem.

Environmental Restoration Area

Goal: As funds are available, the State will restore xeric meadow/grassland habitat in the Douglas Point Area. These areas supported several rare plant and animal species in the past.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 23 The MDNR Natural Heritage Program will develop a restoration plan that will be included as a part of the Annual Work

Plan. All plans will be coordinated by the Land Unit Manager and submitted to MDNR Resource Planning for an interdisciplinary review prior to implementation.

- MR 24 The MDNR Natural Heritage Program, with assistance of the Forest Service, other agency staff, and volunteers, will implement the restoration plan. It is expected that restoration activities will include the removal of Virginia pine followed by the use of prescribed burning in order to increase available suitable habitat for rare plant species. Soil disturbance will be minimized in order to reduce the potential for encroachment of weeds as a result of this clearing.
- MR 25 The MDNR Natural Heritage Program and Forest Service will conduct periodic prescribed burns in order to control woody vegetation, as part of an approved Annual Work Plan.

Critical Areas

Goal: Minimize adverse impacts on water quality from development identified in this plan, and conserve fish, wildlife, and plant habitat within the Critical Area.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 26 All development within the Critical Area must be approved by the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission.
- MR 27 The Mallows Bay Area, leased and managed by the County, is still State property, and thus any development plans by the County will have to be submitted and approved by both MDNR Resource Planning (via an interdisciplinary review) and the Critical Area Commission prior to implementation.
- MR 28 Potential for reutilizing the footprint of previous facilities within the Critical Area Buffer should be explored with the Critical Area Staff for potential “grandfathering” eligibility.
- MR 29 Nonwater-dependent uses are not permitted within the Critical Area Buffer; however

reasonable accommodation for public access to the water may be permitted. Generally, clearing of existing vegetation and grading within the 100-foot Critical Area Buffer is not permitted; however, it may be allowed when necessary to provide access to a water-dependent facility or to install shore erosion control measures. Removal of individual trees may also be permitted with approval of a Buffer Management Plan, approved by the Critical Area Commission.

CULTURAL & PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Overall Goal: Protect cultural (historic, prehistoric, or archeological) or paleontological resources for future generations of the public.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 30 All contracts and specific constructions plans should contain language stating that if cultural or paleontological resources are found during construction excavation on Federal or State lands, excavation will stop immediately and the Lower Potomac Field Station Manager or the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) should be immediately notified.

Cultural Resources

Goal: Protect cultural resources while providing an opportunity for the public and future generations to learn about the historic and prehistoric past of the area.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 31 Protect all cultural (historic, prehistoric, or archeological) artifacts (e.g. arrowheads, pottery shards, etc.) in the Nanjemoy NRMA. Any park visitor finding artifacts must (1)leave them where they are and (2)alert the appropriate managing agency immediately. Artifacts found on public lands will be placed in repositories where they will remain the property of all Americans. Exceptions will be made for those who have acquired permits (i.e. professional collectors working for public

institutions) issued by MDNR and the SHPO.

- MR 32 The County will submit site plans to the Maryland SHPO for review and approval, regarding any development projects that include ground-disturbing activities.
- MR 33 The BLM will complete the Chiles Homesite project, which will result in a recommendation of eligibility for the site for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
- MR 34 The BLM will implement an approved interpretive plan for the Chiles Homesite. The interpretive plan will include possible themes to be presented, selection of interpretive media, and design and construction plans for associated facilities. These products will then become the



Two stabilized chimneys remain at the Chiles Homesite and will be incorporated into the Universally Accessible Interpretative Trail.

subject of a consultation between the BLM and the Maryland SHPO under sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

- MR 35 The BLM will conduct a Federal Class III cultural resources survey on both sides of their trails (10-meter corridor on either side of the trail), and around the parking areas and trailheads. The survey's will consist of visual observation and shovel test pit sampling within the corridor. The results of this survey will be used by the BLM to make a determination of affect of the trail development on cultural resources.

Paleontological Resources

Goal: Identify impacts of trail development and facility development, and work with professional paleontologists to manage the fossil resources for their scientific, educational and recreational values in collaboration with museums and other groups.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 36 Protect fossils of significance by prohibiting the collection of any fossils still embedded in the exposed cliffs along the shoreline. Exceptions will be made (i.e. professional collectors working for public institutions) for those who have acquired permits issued by the BLM and MDNR. These fossils are important for research and educational purposes and should be placed in museums or other public institutions. Any park visitor finding embedded fossils should (1)leave the fossils in place, and (2)immediately bring it to the attention of the managing agency. However, sharks teeth, shells, and other fragmentary fossils found lying along the beach may be collected and taken home.
- MR 37 Paleontological work in the Douglas Point SRMA must follow the BLM policy for Paleontological Resources.
- MR 38 Conduct a paleontological survey to identify any fossil resources that could be impacted in construction of the Blue Banks Beach trail to the Potomac River, and

development of the picnic site on the bluff at Blue Banks Beach.

- MR 39 The BLM, MDNR, and County will ensure that fossils are collected by professionals and placed in permanent, public institutional collections (e.g. Calvert Marine Museum, Smithsonian Institute, or within future Charles County Interpretative Center(s), etc.).

PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION

Overall Goal: Provide compatible resource-based recreation opportunities and facilities that accommodate a variety of user groups, while protecting the area's sensitive habitats and species.

Accessibility

Goal: The BLM, MDNR, and the County are committed to making programs and facilities universally accessible to disabled visitors to the maximum extent possible.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 40 The BLM will make all facilities developed at the Douglas Point SRMA universally accessible, according to Department of the Interior Guidelines for Recreation Areas, except for the Blue Banks Beach Spur trail, which will descend steep slopes, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- MR 41 The MDNR and BLM will share management of the road to the accessible hunting/viewing blind located at the Douglas Point Area. Disabled visitors will be allowed motorized on-highway vehicle (licensed only) access to the hunting/viewing blind via permit only.
- MR 42 The BLM, MDNR, and the County will encourage compatible entrepreneurial opportunities that provide universal access to activities such as fishing and or viewing the sunken ships at Mallows Bay.

Boating—Motorized

Goal: To provide a much-needed opportunity for public access to the Lower Potomac River and provide quality water based recreation opportunities for motorized boaters.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 43 The County will construct a single-lane motorized boat ramp, with boarding pier, at the Mallows Bay Area.
- MR 44 Vehicle/boat trailer combination parking spaces will be limited to a maximum of 20 spaces at the Mallows Bay Area.
- MR 45 There will be no dredging of the channel that leads from the ramp to the mainstem of the Potomac River.
- MR 46 The MDNR and County will evaluate the necessity for limiting the size of boats to be launched at the Mallows Bay Area. This decision will be based on resource impacts and the capacity of the boat launch facility.
- MR 47 A “No Wake Zone” will be posted by the MDNR around the boat ramp and access channel to the Potomac River.
- MR 48 To protect submerged aquatic vegetation, power boats will be restricted to enter and exit Mallows Bay through a marked channel when accessing the Potomac River mainstem.



The single-lane motorized boat ramp at the Mallows Bay Area will provide much needed fishing access to the Potomac River.

Camping—Individual/Group sites at Mallows Bay Area

Goal: Provide a quality camping experience for families, groups, and individuals at Mallows Bay.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 49 The State and/or County may develop a site plan for eventual construction of a campground at the Mallows Bay Area, when funds are available and demand is evident. Camping will not be allowed on any other land unit in the Nanjemoy NRMA.
- MR 50 An appropriate site plan for camping will be designed consistent with the Management Recommendations set forth by this plan and will be made available for public review.

Education/Interpretation

Goal: Provide opportunities for the public to enhance their knowledge and appreciation of the cultural (historic, pre-historic, and archeological) and natural resources of the area.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 51 The BLM, MDNR, and County will work together to find resources to develop programs and materials which allow for an understanding of:
- Natural resources, including such topics as stages of ecological succession; tree identification; native nonwoody plant species characteristics; identification of exotic plants; forest soil development; the benefits of snags and coarse woody debris.
 - Cultural Resources, including such topics as the lifeways of the Chiles family; Revolutionary and Civil War activity in the Nanjemoy area; and the story of the ship graveyard at the Mallows Bay Area.
- MR 52 The County will construct an interpretative/informational kiosk to inform visitors about the area's natural resources and history of Mallows Bay.

Fishing

Goal: Provide reasonable opportunities for both land and water-based fishing access.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 53 The County will restore an existing small fishing pier at the Mallows Bay Area if funds are available. If not, the structure will be removed.
- MR 54 No fishing tournaments will be allowed at the Mallows Bay Area.

Hunting

Goal: Provide a safe and effectively managed archery, muzzleloader, and shotgun hunting program for waterfowl, small game and deer in order to support both recreational and ecosystem health needs.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 55 The MDNR Management Team will use hunting to manage wildlife populations on all properties in the Nanjemoy NRMA, except the County managed portion of the Mallows Bay Area, as County regulations prohibit hunting on County park lands. The MDNR Management Team will, however, allow the MDNR Wildlife Heritage Service (WHS) to continue licensing offshore waterfowl hunting opportunities at Mallows Bay and allow pre-registered hunters pre-dawn access to all Nanjemoy NRMA waterfowl hunting blinds via the boat launch at the Mallows Bay Area during all waterfowl seasons. Waterfowl hunting days and the locations of off-shore blind sites will be determined by the MDNR Management Team during the Annual Work Plan process.
- MR 56 The MDNR Management Team will mark a 450-foot safety zone on all properties in areas that are in close proximity to occupied homes or businesses, or in areas that are otherwise not conducive to hunting or the discharge of a firearm or weapon.
- MR 57 The MDNR Management Team will post and or publish public notification regarding dates and times of hunting activities in coordination with the BLM. The BLM

shall have the right to suspend any planned hunting activities or alter hunting schedules on the Douglas Point SRMA, in order to protect natural resources, ensure public safety, or carry out management activities that are incompatible with active hunting.

- MR 58 The MDNR Management Team will allow only managed hunting within the planning area. They will verify hunters' qualifications, manage the species being hunted, as well as regulate dates, times, locations of hunting. These actions will maximize safety and the effectiveness of managing wildlife populations while limiting the disruption of other uses and activities in the area.
- MR 59 Hunting will not be allowed in any areas of the Nanjemoy NRMA on any Sunday during the year.
- MR 60 The MDNR Management Team will monitor the effectiveness of the hunting program with regard to the management of wildlife populations and interactions between other users. Appropriate changes will be addressed during the Annual Work Plan process.
- MR 61 Outside of hunting seasons, possession or discharge of weapons will be prohibited in the Nanjemoy NRMA.

Land Trails

Goal: To develop and maintain a network of trails that will provide the public with access to most areas of the property, while protecting natural and cultural resources.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 62 The BLM, MDNR and County will promote "Leave No Trace" program themes.
- MR 63 The BLM, MDNR, and County will coordinate with the Maryland State Highway Administration to establish marked and signed, formal pedestrian crossings at each of the six points where the trail crosses MD 224 and the one point where it may cross Jacksontown Road.



Photo courtesy of Matt Buccini

Trails, such as this one at the Purse Area, will provide connections between the various parts of the Nanjemoy NRMA and provide a means for the public to reconnect with nature.

- MR 64 Trails on both the State and Federal properties will primarily utilize the existing network of old roads or trails. New trail segments will be constructed to provide connections between existing trails or destinations.
- MR 65 All trails on BLM and MDNR lands are designated solely for non-motorized use. Exceptions include emergency vehicles, agency staff, approved persons accessing the communications tower, or permit-only access to the universally accessible hunting/viewing blind.
- MR 66 The BLM will designate a north-south trail segment within the Douglas Point SRMA as a segment of the Potomac National Heritage Scenic Trail (PNHST). The MDNR will pursue designation with the National Park Service as other PNHST trail segments are constructed in the area.
- MR 67 In order to protect sensitive resources, the Blue Banks Beach Spur and the portion of the trail along the beach that connect the

Purse and Douglas Point Areas, are open to pedestrians only. All other trails on State and BLM property are designated non-motorized multiuse: hiking, biking, and equestrian.

- MR 68 The BLM and MDNR will regularly monitor trails, using “Limits of Acceptable Change” protocols, to identify and correct erosion and compaction problems. Multi-use trail segments may be designated single use if monitoring indicates that certain trail users are causing unacceptable impacts to natural or cultural resources. The County will be required to maintain the trails in Malloys Bay area, with monitoring by the MDNR.
- MR 69 Existing trail segments may be closed, rerouted, or designated single use to mitigate deteriorating conditions, such as user conflicts, or drainage, erosion and compaction problems
- MR 70 Existing trail segments not part of the proposed loop system will be allowed to regenerate and grow over. Certain segments may require barriers or plantings in order to protect areas of sensitive natural or cultural resources.
- MR 71 Trail surfaces will be selected and designed to minimize maintenance. Trail surfaces should be appropriate for site conditions. Permeable alternatives, such as native soil, wood chips, stone dust, or gravel, are preferred rather than paving.
- MR 72 New trail alignments should be designed to minimize impacts to natural resources, such as curving around large trees or avoiding small swales and depressions.
- MR 73 No trees with a diameter at breast height (dbh) greater than 10 inches will be removed for new trail construction.
- MR 74 No wetland areas will be filled for new trail construction.
- MR 75 New trails alignments will be constructed to maintain existing drainage patterns, and channel runoff into suitable areas.
- MR 76 Multiuse trail width should be the minimum necessary to accommodate the anticipated use of the pathway; six feet wide or less is generally recommended

according to BLM and MDNR trail standards. Forest canopy coverage shall be maintained.

- MR 77 The MDNR, BLM, and County will utilize volunteer labor, such as a “Friends Of” group to assist with both creation and maintenance of trails and picnic areas.

Picnic Sites

Goal: To provide the public with multiple opportunities for picnicking, some accessible by car, while more remote locations are only accessible by land or water trail.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 78 The MDNR and BLM will develop three canoe, kayak, or shallow draft boat stopover/picnic points which will be designated as part of the Potomac River Water Trail. These sites will provide picnic tables and both land and water-based trail access.



Photo courtesy of Matt Bucchin

A picnic table will be placed by this stone chimney at the Douglas Point Area. Three picnic tables will be available at three separate locations within the Nanjemoy NRMA. All three will be accessible by both land and water trails.

- MR 79 The County will construct two picnic pavilion sites (maximum 20 by 24 ft.) with car accessibility at the Malloes Bay Area.

Visitor Center/Contact Station

Goal: To maintain the possibility of constructing a future visitor center/contact station at the Nanjemoy NRMA to meet either public demand or operational need.

Management Recommendation:

- MR 80 Although there is currently no interest from any managing agency, the BLM, MDNR, and the County withhold the right (as approved in the CMP) to construct a jointly-used visitor center/contact station near MD 224 at the Malloes Bay Area. This visitor center/contact station will only be constructed if there is enough public demand or if each agency finds that there is enough operational need to provide on-site staff facilities. Maximum size of the facility footprint would be 5,000 sq. ft.

Water Trails—Non-Motorized Boating

Goal: Provide the public with non-motorized canoe/kayak access to the historical boats at Malloes Bay (to develop an appreciation of the role that these ships have played in American history), and water trail stops for the Maryland portion of the Potomac River Water Trail.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 81 Charles County will develop and provide maps, brochures, signage, and other interpretative materials to promote the Malloes Bay Interpretative Water Trail, and inform the public about State Laws protecting these historic resources.
- MR 82 The MDNR, BLM, and County will coordinate with the MDNR Greenways and Water Trails Program to promote the area as a destination attraction for both canoe and kayak enthusiasts.



The Potomac River Water Trail provides an opportunity for individuals, groups, and families to canoe, kayak, and enjoy the Nanjemoy NRMA's beautiful shoreline.

Wildlife Viewing

Goal: To provide the public with multiple locations to unobtrusively view wildlife in its natural habitat.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 83 The County will restore the existing wildlife viewing blind/dock at the Mallows Bay Area, if funds are available and the structure is capable of being renovated. If not, the structure will be removed.
- MR 84 The MDNR will construct, when funds are available, a viewing blind that overlooks a large wetland at the eastern edge of the Wilson Farm Area.
- MR 85 The existing blind at the Douglas Point Area will be utilized as both a hunting/viewing blind for disabled visitors. See Accessibility section for access requirements.

REGIONAL & LOCAL ISSUES

Overall Goal: Promote activities and uses that contribute to the economic health and stability of local and regional communities.

Communication Tower Site

Goal: To enhance emergency communications in the region, allowing the existing communications site on the Douglas Point SRMA, used by the State of Maryland, to be moved to a more adequate location within MDNR-managed portions of the Nanjemoy NRMA. If a suitable

location is not found on MDNR property, the new tower may be relocated to a more appropriate place on BLM land.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 86 The BLM will develop an MOU with the State of Maryland to decommission the existing antenna site, remove all the equipment, and reclaim the site. The BLM may keep the fenced enclosure of approximately 50 x 75 feet as maintenance storage area.
- MR 87 The State of Maryland may locate a new tower site on MDNR-owned lands. An interdisciplinary Project Review will be conducted to ensure that the location of the new tower site will not cause significant environmental impacts. If the site is located on BLM property, this will require a cultural resources survey, section 106 consultation, and an environmental assessment (EA) to be done on the new site once it is identified. The results will determine whether a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be made to issue a new Communications Right-of-Way easement.

Economic Health

Goal: Work with local and regional economic development partners to promote this area as an attribute with aesthetic, educational, and recreational benefits that contribute to the quality of life in the area and region.

Management Recommendations:

- MR 88 The BLM and MDNR will meet as necessary with Charles County officials and community members to develop and implement strategies to enhance nature tourism opportunities in the area.
- MR 89 The BLM, MDNR, and the County will support compatible water-based charter or guide boat operations that provide Universally Accessible opportunities for exploring the sunken ships at Mallows Bay, as well as fishing and other nature tourism activities.

PHASING PRIORITIES & BUDGET

It is intended that implementation of the Management Recommendations identified earlier in the Nanjemoy Land Unit Implementation Plan will occur over time and in phases, contingent upon demand, and availability of funding and staffing. The phasing schedules provided below identify a basic framework of priorities. There is a possibility that certain recommendations may not be implemented.

This section is divided into two parts. The first part describes the focus and priorities of three separate implementation phases covering the next fifteen years. The second part identifies a budget estimate for associated site development and annual operational costs.

PHASING PRIORITIES

Initial Plan Approval

- The MDNR Resource Planning Unit will facilitate the transfer of management responsibility from the interim managers to the newly appointed MDNR Management Team, led by a designee of the MDNR Wildlife and Heritage Service. This MDNR Management Team will meet on an annual basis with a designee from the BLM and the County to create an Annual Work Plan that will guide the decision making and land management activities for the ensuing year.
- The MDNR Resource Planning Unit will facilitate a meeting with the BLM, Charles County and MDNR Management Team to discuss “seamless operation,” level of presence, phases, initial steps, budgeting, and volunteers.
- The MDNR Management Team will contact the various active community groups to establish a compatible working relationship to share information and seek assistance.

Phase I (1 to 5 years)

Phase I implementation is intended to cover the first 5 years of site development. The focus of this phase is to safely open the Nanjemoy NRMA to the public. Emphasis will be in establishing a basic set of operating guidelines and procedures to ensure that this area is safe for the public to enjoy.

Note: See Map 3, Map 4, and Appendix D for a comprehensive view of the development plans being implemented by the BLM, MDNR, and the County.

All three agencies will address basic security issues, such as establishing operating hours, improving site security and parking areas, reevaluating Fire Management Plans, installing informational and directional signage, and removing existing trash and other debris (when near publicly usable areas).

Other efforts should focus on identifying and fostering partnerships or relationships with the various community and/or volunteer groups that would like to be actively involved in the future of this area. There are numerous possibilities to form other partnerships to implement the planning recommendations. For example, BLM has already established a partnership with the College of William and Mary Center for Archeological Research, where the College provided an opportunity for the public to visit the archeological evaluation of the Chiles Homesite.

The County’s Phase I development plans for the Mallows Bay Area include such things as upgrading the access road to the boat ramp (widening to two lanes and gravelling), installing a portable restroom, installing an entrance gate and directional signage, constructing a single-lane boat ramp and boarding pier, constructing trails, boat-trailer and general use parking areas,

and placing an interpretative/informational kiosk and picnic pavilions/tables. (See Maps 3 and 4)

Aside from what the County is proposing at the Mallows Bay Area, infrastructure and activity development will be minimal.

The BLM plans include improving its section of the Douglas Point SRMA trail that leads to the Chiles Archeological Site. The BLM also has plans for improving parking areas and placing a picnic table down by the Potomac River.

As part of an approved Annual Work Plan, MDNR plans will include such things as completing the boundary markings for the entire Nanjemoy NRMA, installing perimeter signs and picnic tables at two sites, improving parking areas, building steps down to the river at the Purse Area, prioritizing trailwork, and conducting resource monitoring, etc.

Phase II (6 to 10 years)

Phase II implementation increases the focus on facility development. By this time, public use numbers should have increased. Management will have to react accordingly to minimize impacts to the natural and cultural resources.

If not accomplished in Phase I, all three agencies should begin emphasizing increased user amenities, such as the development of brochures, maps, trail directional and interpretative signage, etc.

Also during Phase II, the State and County will identify and analyze the demand for camping in this region of Charles County. If demand for camping is sufficient, the State, County, or designated agent, may begin to develop individual and group camping sites at the Mallows Bay Area.

Due to the minimal amount of infrastructure and activities proposed on BLM and State lands, efforts by these agencies during Phase II should be primarily focused on mitigating any resource problems that may be occurring, while

maintaining the level of user experience established in Phase I.

Phase III (10 to 15 years)

During Phase III, infrastructure development should be completed at most sites. Emphasis should be placed upon completing projects that are yet unfinished, or upgrading previous installations.

For example, during Phase III, the County may replace the portable toilets with a more permanent restroom facility, the number of camping sites may be increased to full capacity, parking surfaces may be further improved to gravel, etc.

During Phase III and beyond, the Management Team will continue to be responsible for implementing the Management Recommendations approved by this plan. The intent is to provide a sustainable balance between public use and resource protection.

BUDGET

Similar to the entire planning process and management responsibilities, the development and operational costs associated with the implementation of this plan will be provided through a unique partnership between the Federal, State, and County governments. Also recognized, but not quantifiable or included, is the significant amount of volunteer time and effort provided by the various volunteer groups that assist governmental agencies in maintaining public park land. See Appendix D for a complete breakdown of all Development and Annual Operational Costs.

Development Costs

For the State of Maryland, the schedule of development will depend on the availability of capital budget funds and the priority given to this Park in relation to all other park development throughout Maryland. Similarly, the schedule of development for BLM's portion will depend on the availability of funding.

The Malloys Bay Area is the only area that will be subject to more intensive development, as it includes motorized and non-motorized boat launches, boarding piers, picnic pavilions, an interpretative/informational kiosk, etc. The remaining portions of the planning area will receive relatively non-intensive development, including a few picnic tables, interpretative signage displays, and improved parking areas. The cost estimates found in Appendix D regarding the Development Costs for the County managed Malloys Bay Area, only include their Phase I improvements. These numbers do not include any consultant fees associated with conducting archeological surveys, implementing sediment erosion control measures, or complying with any requirements set forth by the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission. The County or State will address individual and group camping in future as demand is found sufficient to justify implementation.

It is estimated that the cost of infrastructure development for all three agencies would equal \$424,900. See Appendix D for a breakdown of the development costs.

Operational Costs

Annual Operational Costs identify estimates for staffing, general supplies, maintenance, fuel, equipment repairs, and contract services. See Appendix D.

Each of the three managing agencies, the BLM, MDNR, and Charles County, will be responsible for both developing and maintaining their respective properties.

While the County will have a daily staff presence at the Nanjemoy NRMA, the BLM and MDNR will provide appropriate personnel to fulfill the obligations set forth by this plan. For example, the BLM will have an educational, maintenance, or law enforcement person in the area approximately once per week. The MDNR staff person will be responsible for maintenance duties including dealing with vandalism, removing downed-trees on State trails, other trail maintenance, picnic table and signage repairs,

boundary marking, trash cleanup, parking lot grading, etc. The County staff person will primarily be responsible for opening and closing gates (seasonally) at the Malloys Bay Area. The Annual Operating Costs should be relatively low during initial and first phases of site development. Subsequent phases of site development, (e.g. when individual and group camping sites or the visitor/contact station are constructed) may increase these estimates. The BLM will utilize staff from the Lower Potomac Field Station—Eastern States Office for monitoring, maintenance, and law enforcement.

It is estimated that the annual operating costs for all three agencies would equal approximately \$205,200. See Appendix D for a breakdown of the annual operating costs.

New Facility Request

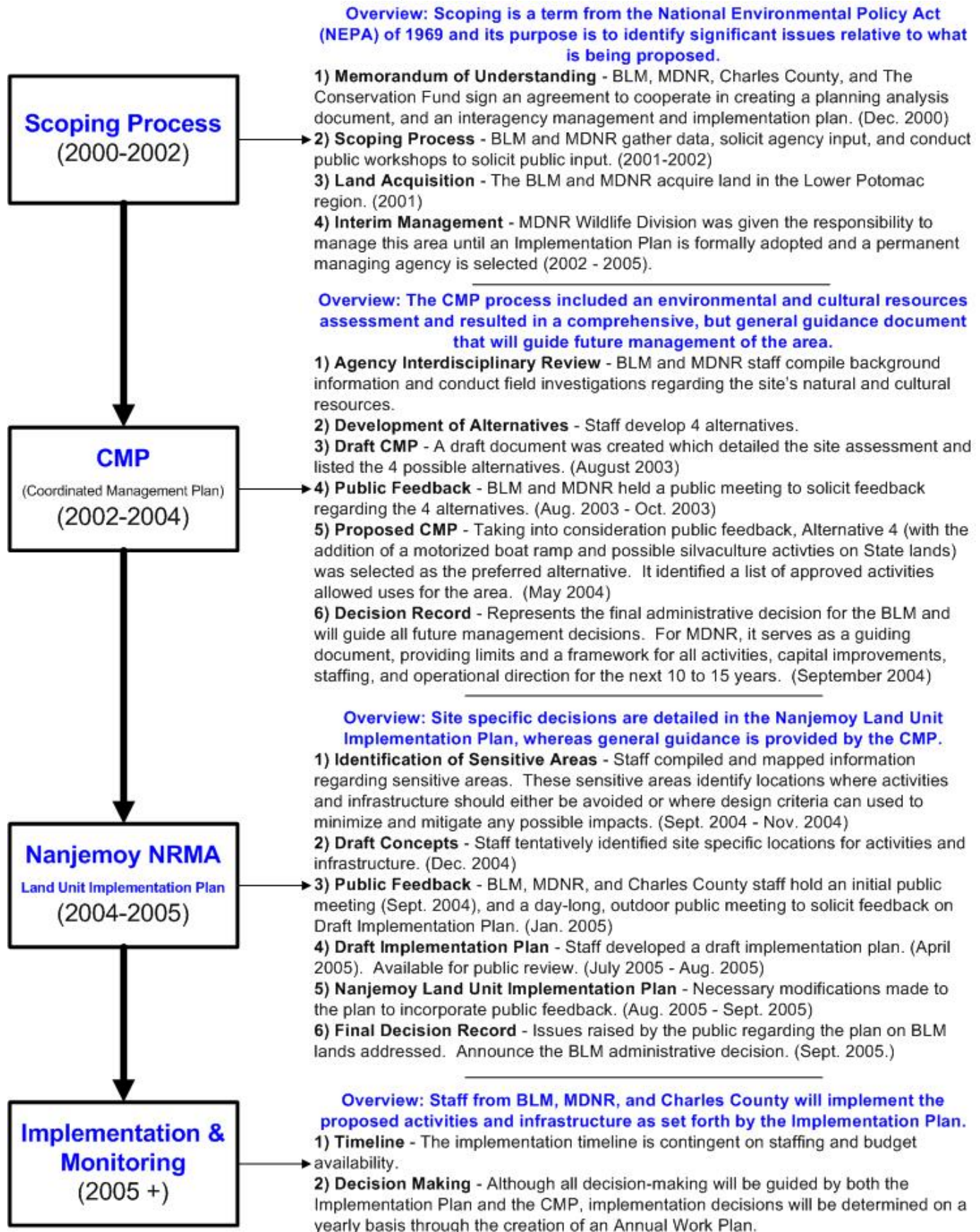
It is recommended that the lead for the MDNR Management Team (Wildlife and Heritage Service) submit a New Facility Request for a staff vehicle as part of the FY'07 MDNR budget request. The total cost of the request should equal \$20,000. See Appendix D.

Funding Sources

All three implementing agencies will work together to seek funds through their budget processes, grants, and donations of volunteer services and labor to implement the plan. Whenever possible, opportunities will be taken to leverage funds available to one agency by matching them with funds from another, or to use matching grants to accomplish more expensive activities.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: PLANNING PROCESS (2000 – 2005)



APPENDIX B: APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAWS AND PROGRAMS

Below are some of the more relevant laws and programs the BLM must comply with in land use planning and implementation: Please note that this list is not all-inclusive.

- Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. 1996
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470aa, et seq.
- Clean Air Act, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.
- Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
- Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451-1464
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9615
- Emergency Military Construction Act of 2000 (Pub. Law 106-246, 114 Stat. 511 (July 13, 2000))
- Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.
- Executive Order (E.O.) 11990, Protection of Wetlands (5/24/77)
- E.O. 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (2/11/94)
- E.O. 13112, Invasive Species (2/3/99)
- E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management (5/27/77)
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 U.S.C. 1701, et seq.
- Federal Noxious Weed Act (7 U.S.C. 2801-2814, January 3, 1975, as amended.)
- Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. 1344
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661-664
- Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 5 U.S.C. 306, et seq.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, 16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through -11
- National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.
- National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470, et seq.
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990)
- Omnibus Interior Appropriations Act of 2000
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 6901, et seq.
- Rivers and Harbors Act, 33 U.S.C. 403
- Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, 30 U.S.C. 1201, et seq.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C. 1271, et seq.
- Wilderness Act, 16 U.S.C. 1131, et seq.
- Applicable Federal Regulations:
 - 36 CFR 800, et seq., historic properties
 - 40 CFR 1500, et seq., NEPA regulations
 - 43 CFR 1610, land use planning
 - 43 CFR 2800, right-of-way corridors
 - 43 CFR 2920, leases, permits and easements
 - 43 CFR 8340, et seq., off-highway vehicle use

APPENDIX C: APPLICABLE STATE LAWS AND PROGRAMS

Below are some of the more relevant laws and programs the MDNR must comply with in land use planning and implementation: Please note that this list is not all-inclusive.

- Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)
 - Title 05 – Housing and Community Development
 - Article §5-617 and §5-618
 - Title 08 – Natural Resources
 - Article §8-1801 et seq. (Critical Area Act)
 - Title 26 – Environment
 - Authority: Environment Article, §5-901—§5-911, Annotated Code of Maryland
 - Authority: Environment Article, Title 16, Annotated Code of Maryland
 - Title 27 – Critical Area Commission
 - Title 14 – Independent Agencies
- E.O. 27.02.01 et seq. (Critical Area Criteria)
- E.O. 01.01.2004.21, Enhanced Forestry Management on the Department of Natural Resources-Owned Forest Lands
- Forest Conservation Act of 1992
- Maryland Historic Preservation Law
- Maryland Historical Trust Act (1985)
- Maryland's Planning Law
- Maryland Department of Environment Regulations
- Charles County Health Department Regulations
- Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standards
- Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration Standards
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Act of 1984
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Program
- MDNR Land Unit Designations
- Forest Service Program Summary
- Maryland Coastal Zone Program
- Natural Heritage Program
- Program Open Space
- Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Initiatives
- State (Air Quality) Implementation Plan
- Maryland's Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act
 - Authority: Natural Resources Article, §10-2A-01 to §10-2A-09, Annotated Code of Maryland

APPENDIX D: BREAKDOWN OF DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL COSTS (2005 Price Base)

Development Costs

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COSTS—MALLOWS BAY

ACCESS ROAD

- Improve access road from MD 224 to boat ramp (including, widening to 2 lanes, implementing sediment control, adding guard rails where appropriate, and gravel. \$24,500

BOARDING PIER

- Construct a single, wooden, floating, boarding pier next to the single-lane boat ramp. \$20,000

INTERPRETATIVE/INFORMATIONAL KIOSK

- Create a historical interpretative kiosk to inform visitors about the history of the Mallows Bay area. \$2,500

MD 224 APRON

- Pave a 100 ft. apron off of MD 224 \$1,500

MOTORIZED BOAT RAMP

- Construct a cement ramp approx. 12 to 15 ft. wide by approx. 25 to 50ft. long to accommodate motorized vehicles and trailers \$44,000

NON MOTORIZED BOAT RAMP

- Construct a universally accessible canoe/kayak launch area. \$1,700

PICNIC AREAS

- Construct 2 picnic pavilions (20 ft. x 24 ft.) with tables. \$8,000

TOW VEHICLE & TRAILER PARKING LOT

- Construct one gravel 20-trailer parking lot \$5,000

VEHICLE TURN-AROUND AREA

- Construct a gravel turnaround area for vehicles and boat trailers to load and unload at the boat ramp. \$2,800

Total County Development Costs = \$110,000

Note: Fees associated with site plans and field assessments for permit approval for the development are not included. These development costs also do not reflect future installation of electric and water (potential) utilities.

BLM DEVELOPMENT COSTS—DOUGLAS POINT SRMA

PARKING LOTS

- Construct three parking lots with a maximum of 10-car capacity (gravel surface, entrance, pipe, clearing and wheel stops) - @ \$25,000 each \$75,000

PICNIC TABLES

- Install one Recycled Plastic picnic table near the Blue Banks trail spur. \$800
Picnic area accessible via land and water trails. -@ \$800 each (delivered)

CHILES HOMESITE

- Install benches and interpretative signage (5 panels), upgrade trail to provide universal access to the Chiles Homesite. \$40,000

TRAILHEAD SIGNAGE

- Construct three trailhead information boards (single panel with shingled roof) \$7,500
at each parking area - @\$2,500 each

Total BLM Development Cost = \$123,300

MDNR DEVELOPMENT COSTS—WILSON FARM, DOUGLAS POINT, AND PURSE AREAS

CAP ABANDONED WELL

- Cap a single well on the far eastern portion of Wilson Farm \$2,500

RAZING SIX STRUCTURES

- Demolition of six old houses in extremely poor and dilapidated condition - @ \$15,000 each \$90,000

PARKING LOTS

- Construct three parking lots with a maximum of 10-car capacity (gravel surface, entrance, pipe, clearing and wheel stops) - @ \$25,000 each \$75,000

PICNIC TABLES

- Install two Recycled Plastic picnic tables near the two chimney's at the Purse and Douglas Point Areas \$1,600
Picnic areas accessible via land and water trails. -@ \$800 each (delivered)

PURSE STEPS TO RIVER

- Construct steps and landing to minimize the current erosion that is occurring at the Purse Area (installed) \$5,000

TRAILHEAD SIGNAGE

- Construct three trailhead information boards (single panel with shingled roof) \$7,500
at each parking area - @\$2,500 each

WILDLIFE VIEWING BLIND

- Install one wildlife viewing blind at the Wilson Farm Area \$10,000
(See Site Plan Map for location) - @ \$10,000 (installed)

Total MDNR Development Cost = \$191,600

Total Development Costs = \$424,900

Operational Costs

The operational costs are annual cost estimates using a 2005 Price Base.

COUNTY OPERATIONAL COSTS

PERSONNEL

- Part-time staff to open/close gates seasonally, on-site management and trash pickup. A full-time Park Staff person will also be assigned overall management responsibility but will not be charged out of the Mallows budget. \$10,000

GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Locks, chains, maintenance tools, etc. \$2,000

MAINTENANCE

- Materials for roads, trails, boarding pier, and general parking area repairs. \$2,200

FUEL

- Routine maintenance fuel. \$500

EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

- Mower and other maintenance equipment repair expenses. \$500

CONTRACT SERVICES

- Portable toilets, trash services, etc. \$3,000

Total County Annual Operational Costs = \$18,200

BLM OPERATIONAL COSTS

PERSONNEL

- One BLM employee working approximately 20 days a year on maintenance and one BLM Law Enforcement Officer patrolling approximately 24 times a year. BLM also estimates that volunteers will contribute approximately 80 days a year labor. \$18,000
- Natural resource monitoring/management—BLM staff will spend approximately 10 days per year working with partners such as volunteers, Universities, and the MDNR Wildlife and Heritage Service to carry out a monitoring plan for Douglas Point SRMA and the MDNR properties. Funds will also be used for Challenge Cost Share projects with MDNR. \$20,000

MAINTENANCE

- Materials for maintaining roads and trails, and sign replacement. \$2,000

Total BLM Annual Operational Costs = \$58,000

MDNR OPERATIONAL COSTS

PERSONNEL

- One long-term contractual Wildlife employee to be stationed at Smallwood State Park to oversee Nanjemoy NRMA boundary management, public inquiry, public access issues, safety, maintenance issues, volunteer coordination, event management, etc. \$30,000
- Comparable salary of one full-time Natural Resources Police Officer (to pay overtime wages using existing officers) to address minimal public safety, law enforcement, and facility/site security needs. \$66,000

GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Locks, chains, maintenance tools, etc. \$5,000

MAINTENANCE

- Materials for roads, trails, marking boundaries, and general parking area repairs. \$6,000

FUEL

- Routine maintenance fuel. \$6,000

EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

- Tractor, mower, or chainsaw repairs and service \$6,000

CONTRACT SERVICES

- Trail sign or kiosk development, tree removal, printing, etc. \$8,000

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

- Computer and associated equipment \$2,000

Total MDNR Annual Operational Costs = \$129,000

Note: These MDNR annual costs do not include an expected initial purchase of a staff vehicle for \$20,000.

Total Operational Costs = \$205,200

New Facility Request

- 1 Staff Vehicle \$20,000

Total New Facility Request Costs = \$20,000

Total New Facility Request Costs = \$20,000

APPENDIX E: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA), FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS (FONSI), & DECISION RECORD

Log # ES915-05-01

Introduction

This appendix provides an analysis of the environmental impacts expected by executing the Land Unit Implementation Plan prepared jointly by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Lower Potomac Field Station of the Bureau of Land Management—Eastern States. This Environmental Assessment is required of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). This analysis covers only the 548 acre, Federally-owned portion of the Douglas Point property, purchased by the BLM in 2002, in conjunction with adjacent conservation land acquisitions by the State of Maryland.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action plan is to analyze the impacts of implementing the Decision Record signed by the BLM Eastern States Director on September 9, 2004 for the use of the Douglas Point Property. This Decision provided guidelines to provide for a low level of recreation development, and nature-based, non-motorized recreation opportunities to reach the following goal:

“It is the goal of the Lower Potomac River Coordinated Management Plan to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, cultural and historic preservation and interpretation, and natural resource conservation and education that support sustainable economic development while maintaining the region’s rural character.” (CMP, page 1-4)

The Proposed Action would implement the CMP decisions made by the BLM Eastern States Director to allow for public enjoyment of the natural and cultural features of the property, through allowing minimal development and non-motorized recreation, while assuring resource protection, and restoration. The Implementation Plan is expected to guide on-site decision making for the next 10-15 years.

Conformance with Existing Plans

The Proposed Action was designed to implement the CMP, and has been reviewed by the State of Maryland, and Charles County, Maryland for conformity with State and local laws, programs, and policies. For a more complete chronology of the planning process for the Douglas Point property, see the section of the plan titled “Planning Process” in Appendix A of this document.

Description of Alternatives

Because the Proposed Action was designed to meet the goals for the property without causing significant environmental impacts, no other alternatives were developed other than the No Action Alternative required by the NEPA.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE: This would be a continuation of current management, and provides a baseline to which other alternatives can be compared. This alternative consists of currently authorized activities of the interim management agreement between the BLM and MDNR. The BLM portion of the Douglas Point tract would be open to non-motorized recreational use with no development, and only custodial management to prevent natural resource degradation.

PROPOSED ACTION: This alternative would implement the decisions made in the September, 2004 Decision Record by managing the site for non-motorized recreation, and maximizing the opportunity to appreciate

and enjoy the natural and cultural resources at the site. The site would remain largely undeveloped, and this alternative would focus on staying within the existing disturbance created by existing roads, trails, and informal parking areas to provide for hiking, nature observation, cultural resource interpretation, and hunting.

In order to accommodate these uses, the following activities are proposed which could potentially cause impacts:

- 1) Construction of two 30 x 70 foot parking areas surfaced with compacted aggregate at either end of the existing North-South jeep trail that runs through the property;
- 2) Maintaining the North-South 1.3 mile jeep trail as an 8 ft. wide non-motorized aggregate surface multi-use trail, by improving drainage and wet sections, adding a packed aggregate surface to the southernmost 0.2 miles of the Chiles Homesite trail to make it universally accessible;
- 3) Constructing a 5 ft. wide trail and rest areas surfaced with compacted aggregate to provide universally accessible interpretive trail and information panels at the Chiles Homesite;
- 4) Creating a 0.7 mile long 3 ft. wide aggregate surfaced hiking trail to a small cove and overlook at the north end of the property which would involve 850 feet of new trail construction; creation of a 15 ft. x 15 ft. picnic site overlooking the Potomac River;
- 5) Improving the drainage and reducing erosion on the road running near the southern boundary of the property, which leads to the universally accessible duck blind, through the use of drainage dips on the trail, and runout ditches from the shoulders of the trail;
- 6) Installing signage to identify the site, provide information on allowable uses and visitor safety. This signage would be done in conjunction with the MDNR and the County, to provide consistent visitor information throughout the Nanjemoy Natural Resources Management Area, including the SRMA.

Construction of these facilities would be done using contractors, BLM and MDNR personnel, and volunteers. When needed, small mechanical equipment (less than 50 hp, and 8 feet wide) would be used to transport, grade, and compact materials on the existing trails and proposed parking areas.

Other Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

Preliminary proposals to develop a shoreline trail along the Potomac River were dropped because of the sensitive resources and highly erodible banks found along the river. Although the CMP calls for installing a vault toilet at one of the trailheads in the SRMA, the planning team felt that it would not be administratively feasible to maintain a toilet in the SRMA and the toilet facility planned for the more intensively developed Mallows Bay portion of the planning area would be adequate.

Affected Environment

The affected environment for the Douglas Point SRMA is described briefly in the "Site Analysis" section of this document, and more fully in Chapter 3 of the CMP.

Environmental Impacts

This section provides the evaluation of direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed action. Impacts may be to society, the economy, or the biological or physical environment. Any issues or concerns raised by Bureau staff are discussed below. If there is a need to mitigate the environmental impacts of these issues, those mitigation measures are also discussed in this section. Finally, if there are any residual impacts to the environment even after mitigating, those impacts are identified here. Table 1 presents potential impacts to critical resources, required in all Environmental Assessments prepared by the BLM. Table 2 describe potential impacts to other types of resources.

Table 1. Potential Impacts to Critical Elements

Critical Element	Preferred Alternative	No Action Alternative
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	Nature and Extent of Impact: None present.	None present.
Cultural Resources	Nature and Extent of Impact: Development and maintenance of existing trails or parking areas could lead to discovering/disturbing historic artifacts. Mitigation Measures: Cultural Resources survey and consultation under Section 106 with Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) will be done before carrying out any development activities. Follow recommendations of Chiles Homesite archeological investigation by the College of William and Mary to protect and document resources.	Without cultural resources surveys, artifacts could be uncovered and disturbed by public
Prime or Unique Farmlands	Nature and Extent of Impact: None present.	None present.
Threatened & Endangered (T&E) Species	Nature and Extent of Impact: Bald eagles are known to nest in the SRMA, however no development has been planned within ½ mile of nesting areas.	No impacts
Wastes, Hazardous/Solid	Nature and Extent of Impact: None present .	None present.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Nature and Extent of Impact: None present.	None present.
Wilderness, Designated Areas	Nature and Extent of Impact: None present.	None present.
Floodplains	Nature and Extent of Impact: No significant investments or development will be carried out in floodplains.	None present.

Critical Element	Preferred Alternative	No Action Alternative
Wetlands/Riparian/Water Quality	<p>Nature and Extent of Impact: 200 feet of the new Blue Banks Beach hiking trail would cross a forest wetland. Existing jeep trail which would be cleared and maintained as a multi-use trail traverses approximately 150 feet of delineated wetlands, and two intermittent streams.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures: In order to minimize disturbance of water regimes, drainage, and water quality, the Blue Banks trail will be constructed using structures such as a boardwalk, puncheons (a log walkway), or stepping stones through the wet area so that the water regime will not be affected. No mechanized equipment will be brought into the wetland areas during construction. Disturbance from stockpiling materials, equipment maneuvering, and foot traffic around the site will be limited to within 5 feet to either side of the of the trail route within the wet area.</p> <p>Maintenance and development of the existing jeep trail for use as a multi-use recreational trail will involve erosion control measures such as grading the trail to allow for drainage; grade dips to slow and divert water from steep sections of trail; and culverts to be installed at drainage crossings.</p>	Current erosion of existing roads and jeep trails would continue

Table 2. Other Potential Impacts

Category of Potential Impact	Preferred Alternative	No Action Alternative
Topography/Soils	<p>Nature and Extent of Impact: To create two all-weather parking lots at the existing entrances to the SRMA property, a total of 4200 sq. ft. would be graded and covered with compacted aggregate, to provide a firm surface, and adequate drainage. 850 feet of hiking trail 3 feet wide would be cleared and graded.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures: To reduce impacts of the work to less than significant levels, these parking areas would include the existing MD 224 right of way, and be located within the footprint of the current informal parking areas. Existing drainage patterns would be maintained through the use of culverts to maintain drainage along MD 224. The Maryland Dept. of Transportation will be consulted prior to construction, and their standards and recommendations will be taken into account.</p> <p>New trail sections would follow existing topographic features: no significant cutting or filling would take place; work would be done by hand, or with small equipment within existing disturbed area.</p>	<p>Nature and Extent of Impact: Without improvement, existing informal parking areas would continue to degrade, creating muddy depressions along MD 224.</p>
Vegetation	<p>Nature and Extent of Impact: 4200 sq. ft of grasses, forbs, and shrubs will be cleared for the parking areas at either end of the existing jeep trail. Most of this vegetation is already impacted by years of informal parking and vehicle use. The dense understory vegetation along the trails will require regular pruning and trimming to maintain a safe, clear trail. Increased use may lead to an increase of invasive plants species, as off-site plant material is inadvertently brought into the property. Japanese Stiltgrass is already common along the existing trails.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures: Control of the two highest priority invasive species on the property, Japanese stiltgrass (<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>), and Common reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) will continue to be carried out by partnerships between the land management agencies.</p>	<p>Nature and Extent of Impact: Invasive species will continue to overtake the property, and no control will be provided.</p>

Category of Potential Impact	Preferred Alternative	No Action Alternative
Paleontology	<p>Nature and Extent of Impact: Visitors could uncover valuable remains, and remove or destroy them, which is a federal crime.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures: Information will be posted on bulletin boards concerning paleontological resource protection.</p>	<p>Nature and Extent of Impact: Without taking some measures to inform the public, there is a chance that fossils may be damaged or stolen.</p>
Human Health and Safety	<p>Nature and Extent of Impact: Some members of the public have raised concerns about hiking in the area while hunting is taking place, for both reasons of safety and peace of mind.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures: The property would be closed to hunting on Sundays to balance out hunting and non-hunting recreation opportunities. Maryland law currently prohibits hunting on State lands on Sundays, and this will be applied in the SRMA as well. Signs will be posted at each trailhead location providing guidance for visitors on rules for hunting safely and legally.</p>	<p>Nature and Extent of Impact: Without taking some measures, hikers could be accidentally injured by hunters</p>

Cumulative Impacts

The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1508.7) define cumulative impacts as the impact:

"... on the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the action, when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time."

In other words, Federal agencies need to consider whether their actions could become the "straw that breaks the camel's back." The planning team analyzed whether the proposed activities could result in synergistic impacts. For instance, would any of the alternatives cause the loss of sufficient critical habitat to affect a special status species or increased numbers of tourists would overwhelm the existing local road network? This analysis showed that all of the alternatives consist of such low levels of activity and construction that they do not likely pose any measurable cumulative environmental impacts.

List of Preparers

Jeff McCusker, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management—Eastern States
Matt Bucchin, Natural Resource Planner, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Finding of No Significant Impact

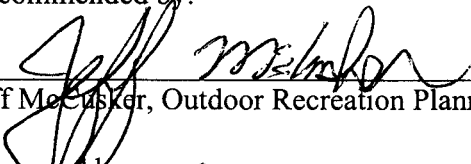
DECISION:

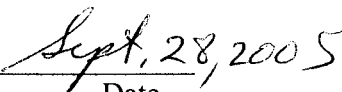
Based on the analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment for the Nanjemoy Natural Resources Management Area Land Unit Implementation Plan, I have determined that impacts from implementing the Proposed Action are not expected to be significant. Therefore the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

RATIONALE:

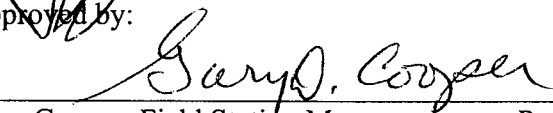
The proposed action closely follows the decisions made in the Coordinated Management Plan for the area, and will result in no significant impacts, while providing for appropriate, sustainable recreation use.

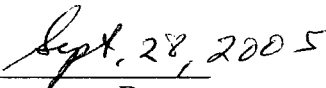
Recommended by:


Jeff McCusker, Outdoor Recreation Planner


Date

Approved by:


Gary Cooper, Field Station Manager, Lower Potomac Field Station


Date

APPENDIX F: REFERENCES

Charles County, Maryland. 1997 Comprehensive Plan.

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